

BLOOMINGTON, IL,
(MELAN COUNTY)

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Illinois

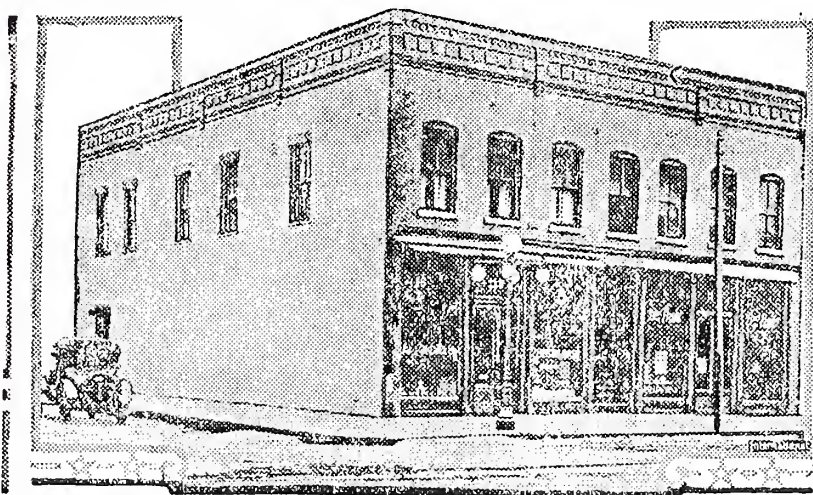
Illinois Towns

Bloomington

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Here First Republican Convention Was Held



Still standing, at the corner of Front and East streets, Bloomington, Ill., is old Major's hall, in which on May 29, 1856, Lincoln delivered his famous "Lost Speech" and which many writers claim marked the birth of the present-day Republican party. A bronze plate on the side of the building was installed by the Daughters of the American Revolution and marks the site of the historic event 69 years ago.

Lincoln on His Last Birthday

Cheerful and Hopeful of Peace That Would Save the Union.

The spirit of Abraham Lincoln in the last days of his life is typified in a telegram which he sent from the White House on his last birthday and is exemplary of the attitude he took, not only toward individuals, but toward the peoples and the states who were opposed in arms to the Union.

The telegram to Major General Hooker at Cincinnati read:

"Is it Lieut. Samuel D. Davis whose death sentence is commuted? If not done, let it be done. Is there not an associate of his also in trouble? Please answer."

"A. LINCOLN."

Harsh measures were taken in the closing days of the war as a result of the military rigors, not only in dealing with the enemy, but in dealing with those within the forces of the North who were guilty of desertion, neglect or treachery. Naturally there was a great outcry in the North from relatives and political friends of the men condemned by military courts. Continual pressure was brought to bear upon the President throughout the war in this respect, but he left these matters to the discretion of the generals in the field for the most part.

Following his birthday, February 12, 1865, he gave special attention to these matters. In the month of February alone he sent at least ten telegrams suspending or delaying executions or asking for full reports of the trials for his personal examination.

Much Executive Clemency.

The decree of the military courts, in some cases, he upheld; in others he issued pardons, and it is said that in at least one case the man who had been convicted was in reality a government secret service agent unknown to the military authorities, who had convicted him for the very acts he committed in the service of the Union.

Biographers of Lincoln have asserted that he felt premonitions of his death in the months following his second election, and if this be true it is possible that the shadow over his soul may have caused him to be more clement than was his rule. It is agreed by many that he was always compassionate and slow to condemn, but he was sensible of the necessity for stern justice and was not given to mock mercy of the weak-kneed, sentimental kind.

The President's birthday itself had no significance in 1865. It is doubtful if many outside his immediate family realized when the day occurred. In the last stages of the Civil war the nation was too sorely beset by pressing, vital problems, sorrow and anxiety to recognize the birthday of the man who himself was the vortex of all the maelstrom of political, military and executive activities.

Lincoln's last birthday, it is known, saw him more cheerful, more hopeful of a peace which would save the Union than he had been at any other time during the war. He had met commissioners of the Confederate government on a steamer at Hampton Roads and, although the interview had led to nothing, the President felt that the dissension evident between the commissioners from the South meant a speedy conclusion of the war.

Coupry With Lincoln.

The house of representatives, just

before the President's birthday, passed a resolution requesting him to communicate to it such information as he might deem compatible with the public interest concerning his interview with the Confederate commissioners. A message was sent to the house by the President summarizing the transactions on the steamer, which actually amounted to nothing.

Several Democrats, who took part in the discussion, complained of the President for refusing an armistice, while the Republicans retorted with Jefferson Davis' conditions about the "two countries" and the more recent declaration of his Richmond harangue, announcing his readiness to perish for independence. Both congress and the country, on the whole, were gratified that the incident had called out the President's renewed declaration of an unalterable resolve to maintain the Union.

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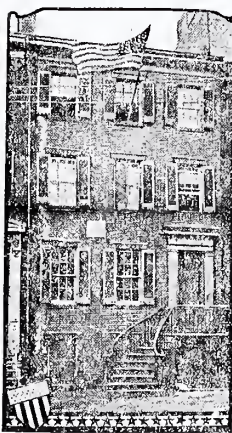
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Where Lincoln Died



By Robert Mackay.

Above Judea's purple-mantled plain,
There hovers still, among the ruins
lone,
The spirit of the Christ whose dying
moan
Was heard in heaven, and paid our debt
of pain.

As subtle perfume lingers with the
rose,
Even when its petals flutter to the
earth,
So clings the potent mystery of the
birth
Of that deep love from which all mercy
flows.

Within this house—this room—a martyr
died,
A prophet of a larger liberty—
A liberator setting bondmen free.
A full-orbed MAN, above mere mortal
pride.

The cloud-rifts opening to celestial
glades,
Oft glimpse him, and his spirit lingers
still,
As Christ's sweet influence broods
upon the hill
Where the red lily with the sunset
fades.

A little girl with eyes of heavenly
blue,
Sings through the old place, ignorant
of all,
Her angel face, her cheerful, birdlike
call
Thrilling the heart to life more full,
more true.

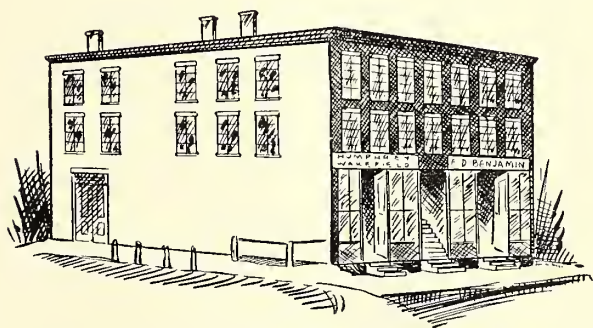
Note—The "little girl" referred to was the granddaughter of Mr. Oldroyd, who met the poet at the door on the occasion of his visit that inspired the above poem.—Religious Telescope.

Interesting Lincoln Memento



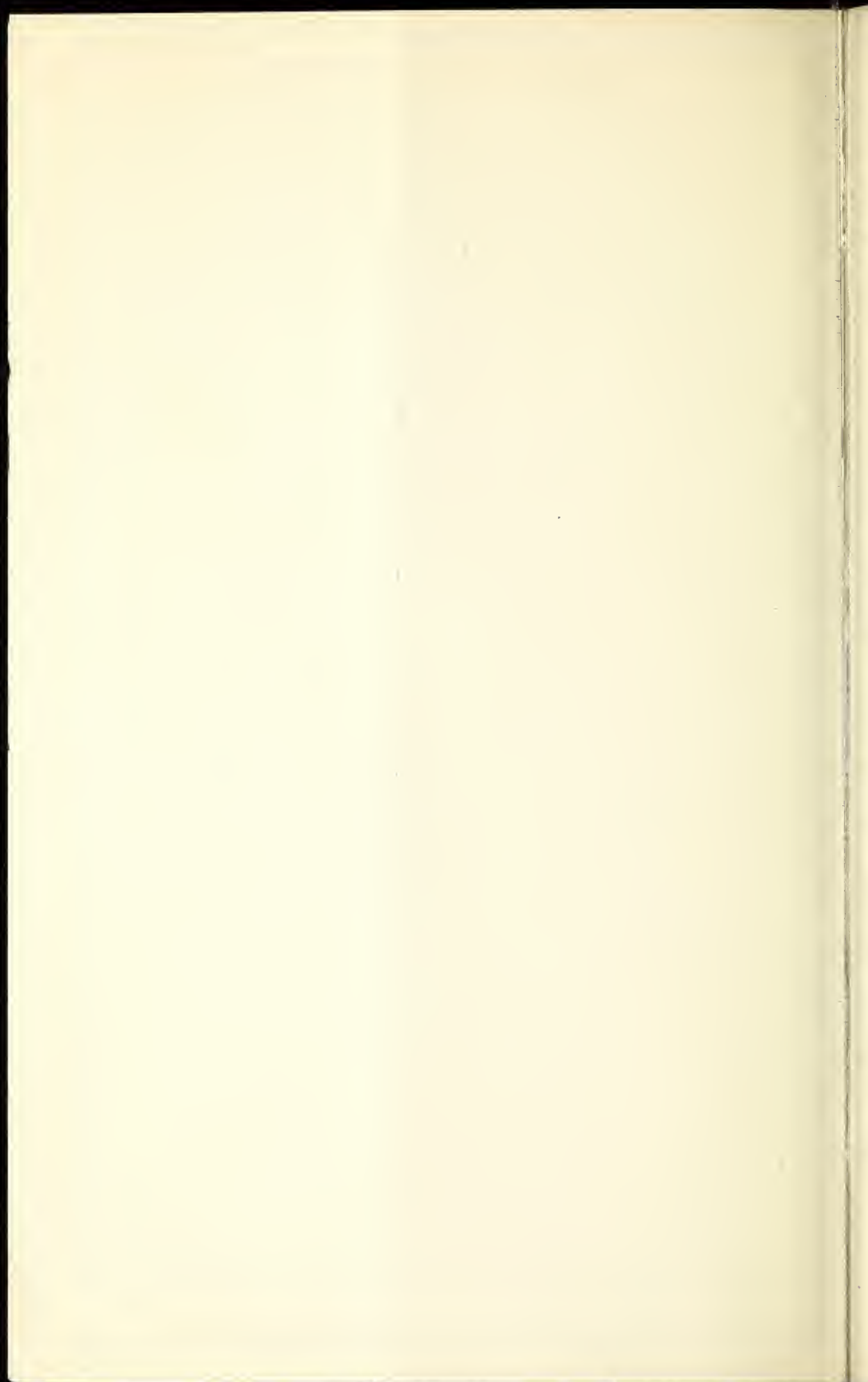
at check, drawn by Abraham Lincoln while check was made payable to "Colored man,

*The McLean County Historical Society
welcomes the members of
The Illinois State Historical Society
at Bloomington, Illinois
October 6-7, 1944*



MAJOR'S HALL

One block north of the Society's Headquarters. Site of Lincoln's
Lost Speech, May 29, 1856



MCLEAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ORGANIZED MARCH 10, 1892

LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

McBARNES MEMORIAL BUILDING

BLOOMINGTON - - ILLINOIS

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GENERAL JAMES G. HARBORD
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- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Adams, Miss Katherine | Brown, Louis |
| Agle, Charles | Brown, Carl |
| Ahleinus, R. O. | Brown, G. C. |
| *Aldrich, Frank W. | Brown, I. E. N. |
| *Aldrich, John C. | Buck, DeWitt C. |
| Anderson, John F. | Buck, Miss Oral M. |
| Anderson, Geo. A. | Burkey's Bowling |
| Andrus, L. M. | Burwitz, Edward |
| Allott, C. W. | Bunting, Joe |
| Anderson, A. E. | Butler, E. J. |
| Alverson Sales | Carlton, G. A. |
| Arends, Leslie | Capen Ins. Co. |
| Arnold Bros. | Carter, K. W. |
| | Chambers, H. L. |
| Barger, Glen | Cohen, F. H. |
| Baumgart, C. H. | Comstock, Mrs. Lucy |
| B & M Baking Co. | Crum, Myrl |
| Bane, Earl M. | Cufaude, Carl |
| Bane, George L. | |
| Bates, Roy C. | Daughters of the American |
| *Beal, Dwight | Revolution |
| Beatus Shop | Dameron, John R. |
| Becker, John P. | Darling, H. T. |
| *Beich, Otto | Davis, Mrs. Emma |
| Bender, Harold S. | Dean, W. P. |
| *Berenz, H. C. | Denning, H. A. |
| Berryman, Wm. | Dewenter & Co. |
| Beyer, W. A. L. | DeYoung, Chris |
| Bloomington Gun | Dodge, H. M. |
| Borher, Roy C. | Dolan, Ned E. |
| Bower, I. J. | Dooley, Clay |
| Biasi, Edward | Dorland, W. S. |
| Bracken, W. K. | Dunbar, Vaughn |
| Brooks, Aaron | Dunn, Mrs. Inez |
| Bloomington Normal City Lines | |
| Bloomington Tent & Awning | Eagan, L. E. |
| *Bohrer, Mrs. Florence | *Edwards, Miss Florence |
| Bond, Frank | Edwards, Miss Ellen |
| Boozell, S. P. | Emmett-Scharf Electric Co. |
| *Brigham, Wm. | Enlow, Parke |
| Boylan, John L. | Elliott, W. A. |
| Brenneman, Victor | Ensenberger, Frank |
| Bro Leen Cleaning | Ensign, Preston |
| Brown, Alfred | Ensenberger, G. L. |
| | Etes, H. L. |

Eyer, Lloyd E.
 Fagerburg, A. T., Jr.
 Faglier, Stanley
 Fairchild, F. C.
 Faugust, R. A.
 *Fordice, Mrs. J. M.
 Foster, George K.
 Foundas, G.
 Freeman, Dr. L. G.
 *Funk, DeLoss
 Funk, Deane N.
 Funk, Mary B.

 Garlough, Wilbur S.
 *Garling, H. L.
 Grassfield, John S.
 Giese, Walter
 Giffin, Ned
 Goodenough, W.
 Gronemeier, F. H.
 Grossman's, H. H.
 Gummerman, John B.

 Habecker, J. N.
 Hamill, B. L.
 Hanger, H. D.
 Haines, D. C.
 Hartwig, Hal
 Havens, Mrs. Esther
 Hawkins, Joe
 Hawks, Dr. J. K. P.
 Hayes, S. W.
 *Harrison, William Henry
 *Harbord, Gen. James G.
 *Hasbrouck, J. L.
 Heffernan, Ralph J.
 Helm, Grover C.
 Hodson, J. F.
 Hoffman, Jesse E.
 Hinthorn Leslie J.
 Hitch, Fred
 Hoffman, Margaret
 Hoffman, F. A.
 Hohenstein's Drug.
 Holmes, Manfred J.
 Hougham, Lyle
 Holton, Campbell
 Hudelson, C. W.
 Humphrey's, Mrs. Clara F.
 Humes, Arthur H.
 Hunter, Clyde D.

 Irvin, Miss Beulah
 Imig, Orin

 Jacobssen, Clarence K.
 Jacoby, Frank J.
 Johnson, Ralph

Jones, Price N.
 Julian Battery
 Jones, Rolla

 Kirkpatrick, Edward
 Kane, Arthur P.
 Karonis, Pete
 Karonis, Harry
 Kaufman, Fred
 *Kerrick, Carrie E.
 *Kerrick, Wm. H.
 King, F. W.
 Kinsella, W. H.
 Klemm, Carl
 Klenner, Max
 Knight, Geo. W.

 Leath's Furniture Co.
 Lamping, V.
 Lang, Harold U.
 Lebkuuecher, Edgar M.
 Leshner, Geo. G.
 Lewis, Jack
 Livingstons & Sons
 Longworth, Varner
 Lomasky, Sam
 Lowenstein, A. M.

 McCurdy, Mrs. Guy
 McElroy, F. J.
 McNutt, Mrs. Jas. C.
 McElhenry, Clair R.
 McGuire, V. W.
 McLellan's 5 & 10

 MaGirl, J. D.
 Mahan, E. C.
 Marton, George W.
 Marquis, C. C.
 Mecherle, G. J.
 Melby, Harry
 Mills, H. P.
 *Morrissey, J. J.
 Miller, E. M.
 Moberly, Alvin E.
 Moore, Eldo M.
 *Muhlke, F. J.

 *Nelson, Miss Loveday A.
 Nickel, V. J.
 Nicol, Roy A.
 Nierstheimer, Louis G.
 Normal Sanitary Dairy
 Northrup, C. B.
 Novak, M. F.

 Oesch, Wm.
 Orendorff, Mrs. Kate

Payne, C. H.
 *Paxton, G. Noble
 Pearson, D. G.
 Pepper, John
 Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co.
 Phelps, Wilbur
 Pines, H.
 *Pratt, Harry E.
 Prillaman, Karl

Quinn, James P.

Raber, Dr. D. D.
 Randall, R. D.
 *Read, R. S.
 Read, Wm. G.
 Rich, S. H.
 *Richmond, Miss Martha
 Robinson, Geo. E.
 Roderick, Mabel
 Rogers, John
 Rogers Wallpaper Co.
 *Rolley, Elias W.
 Roop, Frank
 Rust, Howard H.
 Rust, Adlai H.
 Ryan, R. E.

Salkeld, J. Fred
 Saikley, S.
 Seavy, Capt. Morris
 Sendelbach, E.
 Schlitt, Franklin C.
 Secord, Stanley
 Shahan, J. C.
 Shirk, Edward G.
 Sill, Elmer D.
 Singer, Frank
 Skidmore, Ralph S.
 Smith-Alsop Paint Co.
 Smith, Don
 Smith, Frank L.
 Smith, Ralph Linden
 Smith, R. H.
 Snow, Mr. & Mrs. C. H.
 Spafford, Wm. C.
 *Seibel, Oscar
 Seibel Bros.
 Sours, Dr. M. D.
 Stamm, G. F.

* Life members.

Stern, Maurice
 Stichter, George
 Still, R. B.
 Stephens, Gertrude
 Stephenson, C. A., Sr.
 *Stewart, Clark E.
 *Stone, Hal M.
 Struck, E. C.
 Stutzman, J. H.
 Tally, Harry W.
 Thal, J. L.
 Tappe, Nina M.
 Tay, Lyman R.
 *Thomas, Gen. Gerald C.
 Tietge, Davis
 *Townley, Wayne C.
 Townley, Mrs. Wayne C.
 Townley, Mrs. C. S.
 Trutter, Lawrence

Ulbrich, Al. A.

*VanLeer, Mrs. B. C.
 Vrooman, Carl S.
 VonFossen, R. J.
 Vandevort, Paul D.

Waite, Harry M.
 Wakefield, Sherman D.
 Walker, L.
 Wallis, Wm.
 Ward, K. R.
 Washburn, G. A.
 Waters, E. D.
 Watson, Dr. Thomas V.
 Weiting, John
 West Side Clothing
 Whitmer, LeRoy
 Williams, Louis
 Williams, Mrs. Louis L.
 *Williams, Thomas
 Willke, C. H.
 Wurgler, F. J.

Yates, Wm. W.

Zenor, John
 Zinn, George

100 PLACES TO SEE IN BLOOMINGTON AND NORMAL

1. Home of Vice-President Adlai E. Stevenson, 901 N. McLean street.
2. Franklin Park, across from Stevenson home. In 1896, Bryan spoke here as well as Col. Ingersoll, at a later date.
3. Home of Gov. (Private Joe) Fifer and his daughter, Senator Florence F. Bohrer, first woman senator from Illinois, 909 N. McLean street. Mrs. Bohrer is kindly having open house for the Society and its guests Friday from 4 to 5:30 P.M.
4. Illinois Wesleyan University, Franklin avenue, Bloomington.
5. Illinois State Normal University, Normal, Ill. Ripley in his "Believe It or Not" says that Franklin avenue is the only street in the world with a university at each end.
6. Home of General Gerald C. Thomas, present Chief of Marine Operations, corner of East and Beecher street.
7. Home of David Davis, 1100 E. Jefferson.
8. Southwest corner of East and Locust street. The home of W. R. White, inventor of the White gate (draw gate) famous fifty years ago.
9. Scottish Rite Temple, 110 East Mulberry street. Here the American Passion Play has been presented for the past twenty-two consecutive years by the Bloomington Consistory. Old home site of James Stevenson Ewing, Minister to Belgium.
10. General McNulta's home, 1306 North Main.
11. Home of Sidney Smith (809 East Jefferson), the creator of "The Gumps." Local tradition has it that in the early days of his career he placed one of his paintings in the window of a vacant store with a sign "For Sale \$500." Followed a few days later with the sign "Sold", but the name of the supposed buyer was never learned.
12. Illinois Central railroad. The first trip from here was an excursion on June 4, 1853, a Union Sunday School picnic to Kappa, with 300 people attending.
13. Home of Carl Vrooman, first assistant secretary of agriculture under President Wilson, 701 E. Taylor.
14. Home of Gov. John M. Hamilton, 502 South Clayton.
15. 407 East Grove street, General Grant slept here April 17, 1880.

16. The McLean Co. Historical Society, corner of East and Grove street.
17. The First Methodist Church, across from the Historical Society. Here General Grant attended church April 18, 1880.
18. Birthplace of Elbert Hubbard, one-half block west of the McLean Co. Historical Society.
19. Home of General Gridley, one block east of McLean Co. Historical Society (the Oaks).
20. Site of Lincoln's Lost Speech. Ole Bull here Aug. 19, 1856. One block north of McLean Co. Historical Society.
21. Marker to General James G. Harbord, General Pershing's Chief of Staff, at Court House.
22. The old Court House was on present site. Lincoln practiced law here; also

LAW NOTICE

George F. Markley and Stephen A. Douglass have associated together in the practice of law, in the McLean Circuit Court, and will promptly give their joint attention to all business, entrusted to their care, in the line of their profession.

George F. Markley,
Stephen A. Douglass

Office in the southwest room of the Court House
(Bloomington Observer and McLean County Advocate,
Jan. 13, 1838)

Sometimes Ira Abbott was here.

"Will practice in the Justice's Court in McLean and adjoining counties. Collection and conveyancing promptly attended to. Charges reasonable. Also dealer in dry goods, groceries, boots and shoes. A complete stock always on hand. The oldest established house in the village. Ladies' dress goods, hosiery, gloves, gingham, prints, denims, ticking, etc., as low as the lowest. Highest price paid for county produce."—(History McLean Co., 1879, page 1074).

Here were General Orme and Leonard Swett.

Washington, Aug. 9, 1862

Mrs. Orme

The other day, doing some business here, I proposed to Lincoln to see Gen'l Halleck. He said let me give you card. He gave me the one I enclose. It being from a President, I am proud. I have thought a man's wife would be a proper custodian of it. I therefore send it to you.

Yours truly,
Leonard Swett.

Gen. Halleck, please see the bearer, Mr. Swett, who will tell you truth only about Wm. W. Orme, whom I also know, to be one of the most active, competent, and best men in the world.

A. Lincoln.

Aug. 2, 1862

23. West side of square—"Swett and Orme" had law office.
24. Southwest corner, Jefferson and Center, across south from Illinois hotel, was College Hall. In 1855 Adalaide Patti sang here when twelve years old.
25. Site of Pike House, southeast corner Center and Monroe (where present Aetna Life Ins. Co. is located). On May 28, 1856, Lincoln spoke here.
26. First brick pavement in the United States, block of Center street on Public Square. (1874).
27. Home of Leonard Swett, north side of West Mulberry, between Allin and Mason.
28. Alton Shops, where the first Pullman car was built.
29. Alton train. Arrived in Bloomington, Oct. 15, 1853. Passengers bound for Chicago changed cars to Illinois Central, via LaSalle.
30. Near driving park on east side (no longer in existence) in 1833 the first horse race of a mile was run.
31. Sgt. York spoke at the Y.W.C.A., May 14, 1935.
32. The McLean Co. Historical Society has a display window in the Bloomington Federal Loan Association office, 113 North Center street.
33. Northwest corner of Jefferson and McLean streets are lots owned by Lincoln. This is the former home of Rachael Crothers.

34. Lots owned by Stephen A. Douglas are at Washington and Lee streets.
35. Home of Col. Hovey. His son, Richard, wrote:
 "It's always fair weather
 When good fellows get together."
 See marker at 202 West Mulberry street, Normal.
36. Beichs candy factory.
37. Oil-O-Matic factory. Oil burners installed in Westminster Abbey, Reims Cathedral and many other noted places.
38. Here was the home of the Bloomington "Three I" baseball team, whose manager at one time was "Tiny" Goodbread, who having lost 16 straight games answering the question: "What do you think about it," is supposed to have said "You can't win them all."
39. And here lives Stanley Bishop "Newt Plum", and here lived his famous son, Wallace Bishop, the cartoonist.
40. Miller Park with its fine zoo. We believe this is the only zoo in Illinois outside of Chicago and Brookfield.
41. Joseph Nate, fraternity historian, lived here and is buried in Bloomington cemetery.
42. Mrs. Matthew T. Scott and Mrs. Letitia Green Stevenson, presidents general of the Daughters of the American Revolution, lived here at the time of their terms of office.
43. John B. Lennon, treasurer of the American Federation of Labor, for many years.
44. Site of Jesse Fell home, East Grove street, (1853 City Directory states 91 East Grove street) near Society headquarters.
45. W. W. Orme home, corner of Allin and Market streets.
46. Judge FitzHenry, judge of the United State Circuit Court of Appeals, spent his life here.
47. Funk Bros. Seed Company, pioneers in the Hybrid seed business, established in 1901. Donor of paintings of Black Hawk's granddaughter to our Society.
48. And from here went Illinois Wesleyan's football team to Evanston in 1912 where it defeated Northwestern University 3 to 0. Northwestern never consented to play again so far as we can learn. With the Navy stationed at Wesleyan we might repeat: (Paging Dr. James of Northwestern University, former president of the State Society).
49. Alfred Montgomery, painter of corn.
50. Statue by Lorado Taft near Withers Library.
51. Ernest E. East, director of the State Society, author and historian, formerly lived in Normal where he attended the public schools.

52. Radio station "WJBC"—a good friend of our Society—has its home in Bloomington-Normal.
53. The Daily Pantagraph has furnished bound volumes of its paper to the Society for the time from its first issue to date and in many other ways has shown its interest in our work. We thank you.
54. Illinois Hotel—General Charles G. Dawes and General James G. Harbord spoke at meetings of the McLean County Historical Society at the Illinois hotel on several different occasions. President Theodore Roosevelt also spoke here June 3, 1903.
55. Home of State Farm Mutual Insurance Company, the largest company of its kind in the world.
56. State Headquarters, American Legion, McBarnes building.
57. Site of Phoenix Nursery, just east of Wesleyan, started in 1852. It had 600 acres and 13 greenhouses.
58. Joel Matteson, governor of Illinois, purchased a house where the Fellowship Hall now stands and gave it to his daughter, Mrs. Smith in 1858, but he never lived here.
59. Lincoln street named for Mr. Lincoln before he became President.
60. Circuit Court where Lincoln was awarded his \$5,000 fee in the Illinois Central case.
61. Site of old fair grounds (3 blocks west of McLean Co. Coal Company shaft). John A. Logan spoke there.
62. Franklin Avenue. The mule power cars from Normal came to Bloomington over this route.
63. Theater just east of United Photo Shop was built in 1909 and known as Chatterton Opera House, later the Illini. Here appeared Harry Lauder, Otis Skinner and a host of other stars. The theater was formerly the site of Bloomington Mill. The United Photo Shop is site of Brokaw's second plow shop.
64. Southeast corner of Washington and Center street is site of old "Central Hall". Here Lincoln lectured April 6, 1858 on "Discoveries and Inventions."
65. Northwest corner of Center and Elm street. Site of home of Col. Harvey Hogg where Lincoln visited.
66. Bloomington Cemetery. Burial site of Adlai Stevenson, James Stevenson Ewing, Joseph Nate, Ralph Potter, Letitia Green Stevenson, Mrs. Matthew F. Scott, Marie Litta and other famous people.
67. MacArthur street named in honor of the general.
68. Harbord drive named in honor of the great soldier who is a native of this county.

69. Dawes street named in honor of the former vice-president who has always been a great, generous friend of historical societies. He has spoken here often for the McLean County Historical Society.
70. Northwest corner Washington and East streets, site of State Farm Insurance Company, Bloomington's first livery stable (1846) and later the old Castle Theater, at one time owned by Fred Waukau.
71. Northeast corner Evans and Washington street, home of Wakefield Medicine Mfg. Co. In 1880 it gave out 1,500,000 almanacs.
72. Old Irving School where General Harbord attended school. After World War I, he planted an ivy which since grew over the building.
73. East Grove street between Clayton and Clinton was home of Marie Litta.
74. Site of home of James Allin who founded Bloomington is McBarnes building.
75. Phoenix Hall (site of A. Livingston & Sons) erected in 1858. Lincoln spoke here. Col. Harvey Hogg funeral September 14, 1862.
76. Frederick Douglas and Owen Lovjoy stayed at home of George Dietrich which is on site of The Daily Pantagraph building.
77. Corner Center and Market street. Pierce lynched for killing jailor. At 9 P.M. Saturday, October 1, 1881, he was hanged from a tree there in the yard.
78. Major's Female College built in 1856, four stories high, entire block end of Madison street at Union.
79. Northeast corner Front and Main streets was first brick store in the city, erected in 1839 by James Miller.
80. On East Front street between Gridley and McLean on the north side of the street stood a school house where Leonard Swett taught school.
81. The great Bloomington fire of 1900 started where the Association of Commerce is now located on Monroe street between Main and East (see tablet).
82. The home of James F. Miller, State Treasurer of Illinois, 1856-1860, was at southwest corner of MacArthur and Madison streets. He entertained Lincoln here.
83. 504 East Grove street is the former home of Judge R. M. Benjamin, lawyer, judge, teacher and author. This property is now owned by the McLean County Historical Society.
84. Southwest corner of Washington and Center, site of Abram Brokaw's first plow shop.

85. Site of first post office, west side of Center street, middle of block, between Front and Grove.
86. Central Illinois Female College, 1853-1857, called Wilkins' Seminary. 154 students the first year. When high school began in 1857 it was housed here at end of East street at Olive.
87. Northwest corner Taylor and Low streets, a part of Hinshaw's Grove is where Douglas spoke September 16, 1856. Lincoln and Swett were here. Douglas spoke again October 22, 1858.
88. Southeast corner Front and Main. Royce Hall built in 1856.
89. First building north of The Daily Pantagraph building is old Bulletin Newspaper building.
90. North of Jefferson street between Roosevelt and Madison in 1834 General Gridley mustered a small company. Afterwards they played marbles.
91. Schroder's Opera House (Gordon Cole building, east side square) built in 1866.
92. Durley Hall, 2nd floor, northeast corner Jefferson and Main. This was later Durley building which was destroyed by fire.
93. Southwest corner Jefferson and Center streets, site of Interurban Station and before that the Ashley House. Clint Clay Tilton was a guest here when employed on The Daily Bulletin. There may have been other famous guests but no one remembers anyone but Tilton.
94. Southwest corner of Main and Market "Nickelodeon" and Y.W.C.A.
95. Beautiful Lake Bloomington, about 14 miles north of the city is an artificial lake which furnishes water to the city of Bloomington.
96. The Bloomington-Normal sanitary district park is a beauty spot at southwest of city.
97. The Funk Brothers Seed Co. were first manufacturers of soy bean oil and other soy bean products on the Western Continent.
98. The Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Co. has published the Supreme Court reports of the State of Illinois for 49 years without the confidential decisions ever "leaking out" in advance. Building in block of Illinois Hotel.
99. Old Leader Newspaper was published at present site of Majestic Theater.
100. American House, East Front street, between East and Main, south side of street; Lincoln often stopped here. Patronage dropped off about 1840.

McLean County has been the home of 100 Famous People

- Lt. Gov. John Moore, hero of the Mexican War.
Col. Charles E. Hovey, first president of Illinois State Normal University, who left the presidency to raise a regiment of soldiers in the Civil War.
General Bartholomew, Revolutionary War hero and Indian fighter.
Gen. James G. Harbord, Gen. Pershing's Chief of Staff. See marker erected by McLean County Historical Society four miles southeast of Bloomington and tablet at Court House.
Marie Litta, "The Jenny Lind of America." She is buried in the Bloomington cemetery.
The Prima Donna—Madame Salzman-Stevens.
John Leech, organizer of the first American printing press in the Philippine Islands, which office was the model for all the world.
Clark Griffith.
Charlie Radbourne—"Old Hoss Radbourne," the greatest baseball pitcher who ever lived, winner of 40 consecutive baseball games.
Pawnee Bill.
The Flying Fishers.
Rachel Crothers.
Margaret Illington, great actress, whose home was at northeast corner of Prairie and Front street in the brick house.
John W. Cook, noted educator, president I.S.N.U. 17 years and later president DeKalb Normal.
Edmund James, president of the University of Illinois.
Dr. Richard Edwards, well known educator and at one time president of Illinois State Normal University.
Melville E. Stone, of associated press fame.
Elbert Hubbard, who lost his life on the Lusitania many years after writing his "Message to Garcia."
Isaac Funk.
Louis G. Stevenson, secretary of state.
Richard Henry Little attended Bloomington high school. Conductor of the "A Line o' Type," Chicago Tribune and war correspondent.
Sir William Van Horne, knighted by Queen Victoria for his work in the building of the Canadian National Railroad.
John Wesley Powell, noted explorer.
Gov. Baldrige of Idaho.
Col. Sobieski, claimant to the Polish throne.
Bishop Hartzell, bishop of Africa.
Bishop Fallows, one time president of Illinois Wesleyan University.

Jesse Fell, the first lawyer of Bloomington who was regarded by many as the greatest man of the earliest days of the county. Lincoln wrote his first autobiography for Fell.

Judge Lawrence Weldon, Chief Justice of the United States Court Claims. His home was at 407 E. Grove street.

Justice John M. Scott, for 18 years a member of the Illinois Supreme Court, the first president of the McLean Co. Historical Society.

David Davis.

Adlai E. Stevenson, vice-president of the United States.

James Stevenson Ewing, American Minister to Belgium.

Gen. John McNulta, buried in the Bloomington cemetery.

Gen. Ira J. Bloomfield of Civil War days.

Gen. Dick of the Civil War.

Gen. Orme, Civil War hero.

Gen. Giles Smith, veteran of the Civil War.

Gen. Gridley.

R. E. Williams, noted lawyer.

Carl Vrooman, first Assistant Secretary of Agriculture under President Wilson.

Hudson Burr, distinguished for bravery in the Civil War and later on the staff of Gen. Kautz and with Wilson on his famous ride through the south.

Ward H. Lamon, later United States Marshal, Washington, D. C., who accompanied Lincoln through Baltimore on the way to the inauguration who practiced law here.

Harvey Hogg, Civil War hero, whose funeral was one of the largest ever held in the county. Lincoln visited at his home.

"Private" Joe Fifer.

Gov. John M. Hamilton.

Edgar DeWitt Jones.

Charles L. Capen.

Clint Clay Tilton, public spirited citizen of Illinois; "first citizen of Danville"; former president of Illinois State Historical Society; "superintendent of Maple Grove Academy"; author; former newspaper man of Bloomington.

Dr. John Dill Scott, former president of Northwestern University, lived in McLean county.

General Gerald Thomas lived here and attended Wesleyan University.

Clinton J. Davisson, Nobel prize winner in physics, lived here and his mother and sister are still in Bloomington.

John L. Routt, later governor of Colorado.

James M. Patterson, later governor of Ohio.

Leonard Swett, probably the greatest trial lawyer the northwest ever produced. Thurlow Weed in his autobiography (p.

602) says that Swett "contributed more than all others to his (Lincoln's) nomination." When he died (then a resident of Chicago) the Chicago Mail, June 11, 1889, wrote that the funeral "was one of the largest ever tendered a private citizen in the city of Chicago and a more distinguished audience never assembled in the city." The list of honorary pallbearers was headed by the governor of the state and included both United States senators of Illinois, Chief Justice of the United States, mayor of Chicago, Judge of United States Circuit Court, Judge of the United States District Court and many others.

Isaac N. Phillips for 16 years reporter of the Illinois Supreme Court; Samuel Irwin, reporter from 1910 to 1940, and Edwin Cooke, present reporter, have all been residents of Bloomington.

Although Stephen A. Douglas had a law office here and purchased lots in Bloomington there is nothing to indicate that he ever intended to live here.

Although another great lawyer purchased lots here, there is nothing to indicate that he expected to live here, although here were many of his best friends. He lost Sangamon county in 1860 and 1864 in his contest for the presidency but carried McLean county in 1860 by a majority of 985 and carried it in 1864 by a majority of 1,417.

Charles R. Keeran of Bloomington invented the Ever-Sharp pencil, the first successful mechanical pencil.

Portable elevators invented by W. R. White and son, John, here in Bloomington and first manufactured here. John White invented the first motormeter for automobiles.

George Marton leader of the Bloomington Band for the last 31 years. Also noted for his great acting.

"Johnny" Skelton nationally known cornetist with concert company of Marie Litta and other great singers.

George Goforth whose Black and Gold Band played at the White House reception at the inauguration of President Harding.

Curtis Callaway, nationally known lecturer and authority on embalming. Formerly instructor at the University of Minnesota. He attracted national attention in the case of Floyd Collins of Kentucky.

President John W. Henninger first president of the Western Illinois State Normal School at Macomb and one of the very able men of that school.

S. B. Hurst of the Macomb Normal, acting president at one time and an outstanding man.

Louis E. Davis, of World War I, after whom the local Legion Post was named, was killed in service.

Merrill Holmes of Wesleyan, chaplain of the "old fighting 69th Regiment" of New York, veteran of Argonne and other great battles.

Rev. J. H. Gilliland, great Christian preacher and builder of four churches in Bloomington and Normal.

Dr. Watson W. Gailey, internationally known eye specialist. He was sent to India by the British Government where he performed hundreds of cataract operations.

Dr. Harry Howell, first commander of the Louis E. Davis Post of the American Legion and medical officer in the Navy on the Leviathan in World War I.

Leonard "Baby" Bliss weighed 568 pounds. He toured the United States and Europe on a bicycle. Died on East Jackson street, January, 1912, frozen to death. Louis Eddy, Bert Davis, Lyle Funk and L. B. Merwin met him in London.

Sam Burnett for many years clerk of United States District Court attended Wesleyan here.

Frank Funk, "Bull Moose" candidate for governor in 1912.

James Bicket, former editor of the Chicago American attended Wesleyan.

G. J. Mecherle, founder and "Chief" of the State Farm Insurance Companies.

Hamilton Spencer, great lawyer and president of the Alton Railroad.

Delmar Duane Darrah, 33°, Puissant Grand Lieutenant Commander, A.A.S.R., Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, U.S.A., who has directed the American Passion Play, Dickens Christmas Carol, and many other great productions, and who is the Active 33° Mason for Illinois.

Dr. J. R. Holbert, noted authority on Hybrid seed corn.

"Billy" Shelper, founder of Missions.

William K. Bracken, 321 East Chestnut street, who has kindly opened his home library of Lincoln, and other history items for our members and guests. The time set is 4:00 to 5:30 P.M., Friday, October 6.

Paul Scott Mower and Edgar Ansel Mower, editors and war correspondents.

Judge Colostin D. Myers who with his wife gave so generously to charity (see tablet at Court House).

James Shaw, noted chautauqua organizer and platform agent.

Col. Smith of Normal.

Col. William McCullough accepted into the Civil War with only one arm and with only one good eye. He died a hero. Lincoln's letter to his daughter is one of the finest ever written.

Mrs. Kate Orendorff of Heyworth, aunt of General Harbord, Vice-President of the local Historical Society, almost 94

years old and who can cook the best cookies (always has some on hand for us!) of any person in the State of Illinois. Thomas C. Kerrick, lawyer, senator and member of the Constitutional Convention.

"Jake" Lindley, lawyer, teacher and idol of his student lawyers. Senator Scott Lucas attended Wesleyan here.

Bert McCann, Clerk of the House of Representatives for many years lived and died here.

And also a well known character who is supposed to have loaned money to a local religious organization, and when asked on his death bed if he "belonged" to the certain church replied: "no, it belongs to me."

"Bert" Kitchell, the "sage of Heyworth."

Captain Burnham and Ezra M. Prince, who accomplished so much for the local and State Historical Societies in the early days.

SPECIAL EVENTS

John B. Gough appeared in Major's Hall December 25, 1855, with an eulogy on water.

Illinois State Normal University opened in Major's Hall October 5, 1857.

College Hall at the southwest corner of Center and Jefferson opened early. The Western Law and Medical College started here in September 1853, under the direction of Dr. J. R. Freese who compiled the 1854 City Directory.

The Bloomington Female Seminary, composed of the "fairest daughters of Mother Eve," gave a concert June 18, 1858.

The Centre Hall, third floor of southeast corner of Washington and Center streets, was finished December 10, 1857, had seats "with backs" for 350 people. Abraham Lincoln lectured to the Young Men's Association April 7, 1858, beginning his talk with the sentence: "The whole creation is a mine and men are the miners."

Phoenix Hall was inaugurated by a Republican mass meeting, October 22, 1858. Pullen's brass band gave the concert and Leonard Swett gave the address. Schulyer Colfax spoke October 29. Horace Greeley spoke on "The Great Men of the Country" in December. Kadel's string band later played here. Memorial services for Stephen A. Douglas were held here June 3, 1861. From 1875 to 1880 fairs, roller skating and a walking tournament were held. A wrestling match for \$200 stakes was once held here.

Royce's Hall was the scene of indignation where the reserve seat plan was started with seats for 50c instead of the usual 25c.

At the Schroeder Opera House Fanny Kemble appeared. Ralph Waldo Emerson appeared March 5, 1867 for a fee of \$75.00. One newspaper reported the visit of "Ralph Cold-Dough Simmerson." Hon. Charles Sumner was here October 21, 1867.

At the Durley Hall and Schroeder Opera House in 1881 there were bookings of Joseph Jefferson, Nat Goodwin, Buffalo Bill, Forepaugh's, McIntyre and Heath's Minstrels.

The Academy of Music, ground floor with restaurant beneath, on Main near Market, lighted by gas with seating for 1500 opened April 8, 1868, admission \$3.00 with Kadel's band and program. One week later a Japanese troupe appeared. Destroyed by fire September 9, 1871.

- Durley Hall had Marie Litta June 27, 1879, netting \$501. Edwin Booth as Brutus, appeared April 25, 1888.
- The Washington Hall, southwest corner Washington and East, featured W.C.T.U. programs. The club had 5,000 names on its temperance roll.
- The old Methodist Church held the first classes for Wesleyan. It was razed in 1909 for the Majestic theater.
- Turner Hall or Turn Halle, 315-319 South Main, is well known. "The Grand Opera House" on Market street near East cost \$35,000, held 1,297 people, had 700 electric lights and was started in 1890. It opened February 2, 1891 with "Robin Hood". Boxes were occupied by Charles and Deane Funk, Miss Laura McCurdy, Miss Julia Hodge, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. DeMange, Judge Scott, John Eddy and others. In 1907 George W. Chatterton and Charles T. Hickox bought it and on May 1, 1909 it burned. It was succeeded by the Chatterton Opera House.
- The Coliseum contract to build was let June 1898. The height at the point in the center was 54 feet. It was dedicated December 27, 1898 when 1,200 people paid \$1 a ticket. Theodore Roosevelt spoke here in 1903.
- The Castle theater opened earlier but dedicated a \$5,000 pipe organ August 24, 1910 and advertised as the "Home of the Pipe Organ." The building was removed May 1915 and site remained vacant for many years until the State Farm built.
- The Chatterton was opened April 7, 1910. Attendance included in the boxes Prof. O. R. Skinner, Clark Stewart, Miss May Christian, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Harper, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Staten, the Braleys and the O'Donnells, the Louis Stevensons, the Payne Lowells and the L. B. Merwins with many others.
- Gentleman "Jim" Corbett was later here with George Evans' Honey Boy Minstrels. "Uncle Tom's Cabin" appeared in 1912, with ten blood hounds well supported by the rest of the cast. It was later discovered that Little Eva did not really die but left on the train the next day. Maude Adams in "Peter Pan" and James K. Hackett in "The Grain of Dust" were here in 1913. In 1914 George McManus' original cast "Bringing Up Father" arrived. In 1915 moving pictures appeared for the first time at this theater. "The Birth of a Nation" was shown in 1916. Weber and Fields; the "Copperhead" with Lionel Barrymore; DeWolf Hopper; Ethel Barrymore; Guy Bates Post; Walter Hampden in "Hamlet"; Jane Cowl, later appeared in turn. (Those were the good old days—never to return).

WE THANK YOU

Gifts to the McLean County Historical Society include the following: Miss Georgina Trotter, \$500; Mrs. Sarah J. Raymond Fitzwilliam, \$500; Simeon H. West, \$500; Jennie Packard Memorial, \$300; John F. Humphrey, \$5,000, (see bust in our library); Judge Colostin D. Myers and wife, \$5,000; John McBarnes and wife, \$125,000, for the McBarnes building with special provision for our quarters perpetually; also thanks to the Board of Supervisors. Many, many favors from many, many friends can only be acknowledged by "Thank You."

ILLINOIS AND LINCOLN

Illinois may well recall its contribution to the great life of Abraham Lincoln.

Here in this state were developed those talents which produced that great debater—the superior of Stephen A. Douglas:

Here was developed that orator whose speeches are classed with the gems of the ages:

Here was inspired that patriot—ready to hold the horse of a vain McClellan, willing to bear the ridicule of a mistaken Greeley, satisfied to ignore the false clamor of a misguided minority; that this nation, of the people, by the people, for the people, might live:

Here in Bloomington he gave his “lost speech”—which pointed to his leadership in the Republican Party and paved his way to the Presidency:

Here was developed from the rough, unlettered, unknown backwoodsman—the world’s greatest citizen:

Here was the training that gave to us the patient, wise, just, martyred leader who loved his country more than himself; his honor more than his station; his ideals more than his office:

No meeting of this nature is complete without a tribute to Abraham Lincoln and his ideals.

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Bloomington



PANTAGRAPH CO

PIONEER DISCIPLE: WILLIAM T. MAJOR

By JOHN D. TREFZGER

Editorial Note: Dr. Trefzger has been minister of the First Christian Church in Bloomington, Illinois since 1958. A graduate of Lexington Theological Seminary, he was president of the 1967 Illinois Disciples of Christ Convention. Eureka College honored him with an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree in 1965.

This year marks two anniversaries in the First Christian Church of Bloomington, Illinois, involving William Trabue Major, the congregation's founder and patriarch. It was in 1837 that this newcomer to Bloomington opened the living room of his home at the southwest corner of Front and East Streets to those who would establish a Christian Church. While the congregation is observing its 130th Birthday, it is also observing the centennial of the death of this pioneer Disciple.

I.

William T. Major came from rugged pioneer stock. His grandfather, John Major, Sr., had been a member of the patriot army in the Revolutionary War that had both suffered at Valley Forge as well as celebrated victory at Yorktown. Before leaving the Colony of Virginia, Governor Patrick Henry granted John Major a patent to 1,000 acres of land in Kentucky, near the "junction of north and south Elkhorn Creeks, on the waters of Dry Run." This area is now in Franklin County. Here John Major sought to develop a plantation similar to the one which he had left behind in Virginia.

It is not surprising, therefore, that from this hearty stock would come one, William T. Major, a man of firm conviction and decision. William was born on March 1, 1790, about three miles from Frankfort, Kentucky. He was the eldest of a family of six children. Early in his life he had begun the study of law and attended Georgetown College in Kentucky. For reasons of poor health, however, his physician advised him to seek another vocation.

On February 18, 1812, at the age of twenty-two years, he married Miss Margaret Shipp (1792-1882) in Bourbon County, Kentucky. Their nine children born between the years 1813 and 1831 all grew to adulthood. Three of their four sons became physicians.



Dr. Trefzger

As a young man, Major had been affiliated with the Baptist Church, but in 1830 he identified with the Christian Church movement under the leadership of Barton W. Stone. Throughout his life he maintained that "the Bible alone should be the rule of faith."

William Major and his three brothers, Benjamin, Joseph, and Chastine, had inherited plantations in Kentucky from their father, and were each large slave holders. In 1834 the four brothers decided to sell their plantations and to move to "free soil." Joseph freed all of his slaves, paid the passage for those who wished to go to Liberia, and supported his older slaves

until they became self-sustaining. It is reputed that William sold his slaves to friends whom he knew would give them good homes. Chastine sold his slaves to the highest bidders!¹

In 1835 William T. Major sold his Kentucky inheritance, and journeyed to the new state of Illinois. He settled in Bloomington, whose population was less than 300, eight years before it was to be organized as a town. He brought with him three of his former slaves, Joe, Tip, and Rose, to work for his family. His granddaughter, Eugenia Jones Hunt, writing about the Major's move to Bloomington said that "he bought the largest house in Bloomington—a two-room frame building" (at the southwest corner of Front and East Streets.) On his return to Kentucky, his family plied him with many questions. He would reply to their queries: "Girls, I bought the largest house in Bloomington!"

The Major's exodus from Kentucky was remembered as being a spectacular one. All nine of their children, whose ages ranged from four years to twenty-two, made the trip with the liberated slaves in covered

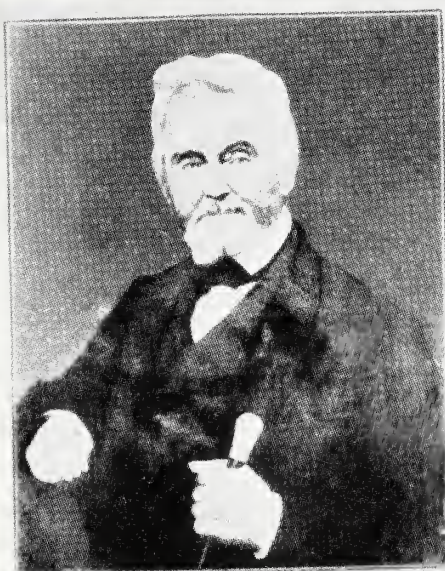
wagons carrying their household furniture, including a Chickering piano. The sons on horseback led the caravan, steering them over the unbroken prairies and wilderness. The parents and the daughters followed in their old-fashioned coaches with folding steps. Life in Illinois opened new doors of opportunity.

The Christian Church, organized in the Major parlor, began with a strong nucleus of thirteen charter members, and quickly outgrew their meeting facilities. In 1840, under his guiding hand and by his generous financial aid, a small, white frame church building was built on the lot directly behind his home on the west side of East Street between Front and Grove. William T. Major not only led the congregation in prayer meetings, but frequently filled the pulpit as preacher and baptized new converts to the faith. He contended for the unity of all Christians in the spirit of the church of New Testament times. He was well-known in the community simply as "Elder" Major.

II.

William T. Major was not only a faithful churchman and an ardent businessman, but he also made many contributions in the life of the Bloomington community as a

1. Eugenia Jones Hunt, *My Ten Decades*, 1846-1946, Unpublished Manuscript.



W. T. MAJOR AND WIFE

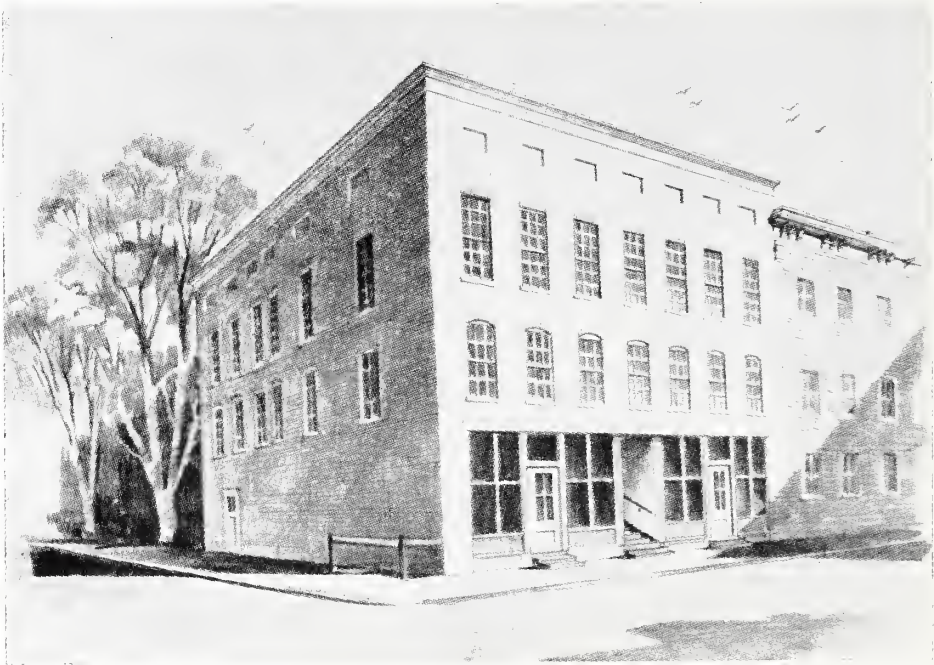
civic leader and as a proponent of universal education. In 1852, on the site of his original home in Bloomington, William Major constructed a three story building whose top floor, "Major's Hall" was the first public hall in Bloomington. The brick building, a fine building for its day, stood at the corner of Front and East Streets. It became a famous landmark because of the eloquent, but "lost speech" made by Abraham Lincoln on May 29, 1856, at the Anti-Nebraska Convention. A fire on the night of November 18, 1872, swept through the third story and completely destroyed the Hall. However, the remaining two-story building continued to be used and was known as "Major's Hall" until it was razed to make way for a public parking lot in 1959. A memorial has been erected at this corner noting that this was the site of Major's Hall. It is interesting to note that in the Freeport Debate with Stephen Douglas on August 27, 1858, that Lincoln said: "I have supposed myself, since the organization of the Republican Party at

Bloomington, in May, 1856, bound as a party man."

It is fascinating to read the account of the Anti-Nebraska Convention from the unpublished book by Major's granddaughter, Eugenia Jones Hunt:

The Anti-Nebraska State Convention (alias Republican State Convention) was held in Bloomington, Illinois, in my Grandfather William T. Major's Hall on May 29, 1856. The Republicans kept in abeyance their project to resolve the called convention into a Republican State Convention. . . . Abraham Lincoln was vociferously called to be their leader. The feature of the gathering was what is known as the "Lost Speech."

Mr. Lincoln spoke to a packed crowd from the stage. Some enthusiasts, eager to get in the Hall, scaled the wall, hoping to push through the third story windows. One young man, whom I knew, (I used to dance with him in that Hall) tried to get in by scaling the wall; and seeing a friend on a window-sill, called to him: 'Give me a leg.' He got in, and later



"Major's Hall" in Bloomington, Illinois where Abraham Lincoln delivered an eloquent but "lost speech" on April 29, 1856. When the building was razed in 1959 an historical marker was erected memorializing the site.

wrote a glowing account of Lincoln's speech and the new-born party in Major's Hall. This building passed from the possession of my family soon after the death of my Grandfather in 1867.

In memory of that "Lost Speech" of Lincoln's, photographs and sketches of William T. Major's Hall in Bloomington, Illinois, are filed in the Division of Fine Arts of the Library of Congress.

With a great influx of new settlers in the early 1850's, William T. Major did very well in the real estate business. He was never labeled as a speculator, but his investments in rich McLean County farm land that he was able to buy at \$1.25 to \$5.00 per acre paid off handsomely. He was a good Christian steward, and shared his income generously. In 1856 he led the growing Christian Church congregation in purchasing a new site at Jefferson and West (Roosevelt) Streets for a boom price of \$1,500 in gold! An \$8,000 brick church was dedicated at this new location on January 1, 1857, with Professor Charles Louis Loos, then of Ohio, dedicating the new building. By now Bloomington boasted a population of five thousand people and claimed to be the third largest city in Illinois!

William T. Major was a strong believer in education. In 1855 he gave \$1,000 to the newly-chartered co-educational Eureka College, enabling the first building to be erected on the campus—which by the way, is still standing today in excellent condition and in full use! He also supported Butler College in Indianapolis and Bethany College in West Virginia. Mindful of the fact that girls did not have the same educational opportunities as boys in that day, it is not surprising that William T. Major was instrumental in founding a preparatory school for young women in the Bloomington community. In 1856 he built, furnished, and staffed a four-story school at the north end of Madison Street at a cost estimated at \$20,000. The school was called Major's Seminary (or college). For a time the Christian Church in Bloomington endeavored to operate the school, but found the task financially impossible with the reorganization of the public high school for both boys and girls in the Bloomington

community in July, 1858. The founder insisted that every girl be instructed in the Christian faith "according to the Scriptures"—and that no one be charged more than \$4.00 per week! After the death of William T. Major, the Christian Church turned the building back to the heirs of the Major Family, who in turn gave the building to Illinois Wesleyan University. While the building was torn down many years ago, the street it was on still bears the name of *Seminary*.

III.

Between the years 1850 and 1858, Alexander Campbell records some six visits that he made to the Bloomington area. Mr. E. W. Bakewell, a brother-in-law of Alexander Campbell lived in the Bloomington area and was a member of the Christian Church. A deed in the historical records of the First Christian Church indicates that Mr. and Mrs. William T. Major sold eighty acres of farm land north of Bloomington to Alexander Campbell in 1840.

The Church founded and nurtured by Major was not without its problems. As early as 1851 there appears to have been dissension in the Christian Church of Bloomington. A "Circular" addressed to the sister congregations throughout the state from "the Congregation of Jesus Christ at Bloomington," dated June 6, 1851, opens with the following sentence: "Dear Brethren: It becomes our painful duty to inform you that we have been under the disagreeable necessity of excluding two of the members of this church, viz: W. T. Major and E. W. Bakewell for insubordination and contempt of the authority of this congregation, and also for other charges preferred against them." This circular was signed by W.F.M. Army, Daniel J. Combs, and Joseph Short as a committee with P. G. Young as evangelist and elder.

As a result, Henry D. Palmer and John C. Jones mailed a letter from Washington, Illinois to twelve congregations: "Washington, Ill., July 5th, 1861"

"Dear Brother: Having been advised by Elder Wm. T. Major of Bloomington McLean County Ill's that difficulties of a very serious nature are now distracting and

dividing the disciples at that place making it necessary to call again a committee that met in Bloomington some three years since comprising delegates from ten different congregations in order to make another effort to adjust said difficulties.

"As chairman and secretary of said committee we have concluded to do so, and have issued notices to the original twelve (12) churches invited as aforesaid to meet at Bloomington on Saturday the 30th of August next in order to make the effort. We are anxious to have all the aid and advice that are available on said occasion. We apprehend that principles are involved if not settled at Bloomington may spread and disturb the peace and harmony of all the congregations in the state, more or less. We therefore earnestly solicit you to be present on said occasion. Your age, experience and standing in the Christian Church make it particularly desirable that you should be and in order to make it suit you and others we have fixed this time, the week previous to the State Meeting at Walnut Grove. A little trouble at the time aforesaid may by the blessing of God not only save the congregation at Bloomington; best prevent the long train of evils so much to be deprecated and so blighting to the cause of truth. Yours in the Bonds of Christian affection,

(S) Henry D. Palmer (S) John C. Jones

"NB.12 Churches were originally invited. Delegates from ten were in attendance 2 being prevented by high waters. The same 12 have again been invited. We would also say that owing to efforts that were being made by W. T. Major, Jr. that this letter has not sooner been mailed"¹

So far no correspondence nor written records have been found indicating the exact nature of the problem in the Bloomington congregation. There is some evidence to indicate that the dissension in the congregation resulted in a split, one portion of the congregation under the continued leadership of William T. Major purchasing the land at West (now Roosevelt) and Jefferson Streets and erecting the new

building in 1856. The rump group lasted no longer than six years, as in September 1862, the Christian Church building on East Street was rented to the German (now Trinity) Lutheran Church. In April of 1863, the German Lutheran Church purchased the original Christian Church building for \$250, and moved it to the corner of Madison and Olive Streets in Bloomington. Additional evidence that the congregation may have suffered a split can be seen in an article in *The Daily Pantagraph* in 1890 at the time of the dedication of the second church building at West and Jefferson Streets in that it lists the "charter members" of the 1857 Congregation.

On the lighter side we note that the organ in the new church of 1856 caused its share of problems. Mrs. Hunt recalls that one woman tried to push the new organ out of the balcony "because the Lord should not be worshipped with 'Hollow Sticks!'"

IV.

The Major Family knew the young prairie lawyer, Abraham Lincoln, who was only five years older than Judith, their second child. When asked what it was like to dance with Lincoln, she replied, "Mr. Lincoln wasn't what you would call a graceful man on the floor, but when he took my arm I knew a real man had hold of me!"²

Not much has been preserved for us about William T. Major's personality. Perhaps the best description is found in Duis' sketches of early McLean County settlers:

As to personal appearance Elder Major was a little above the medium height; his hair was gray, almost white. His countenance wore the expression of a saint. He was always ready with a kind word and a smile; and always willing to succor the distressed.²

The public-spirited William Major never ceased to be a faithful steward and laborer for the Christian Church. The entire Bloom-

(continued on page 52)

1. From files of Disciples of Christ Historical Society, Nashville, Tenn.

1. From Interview by Edgar DeWitt Jones about 1908.

2. E. Duis, *Good Old Times in McLean County*, 1874, p. 290.

Lincolniana Collector Puzzled Over Dearth of Items Here

By Charlotte Fleshman

King V. Hostick, Springfield, one of the nation's leading dealers in autographs and rare manuscripts, is puzzled over a seeming scarcity of Lincoln items in Bloomington.

"Lincoln was closely associated with many persons in Bloomington," notes Mr.

Charlotte Fleshman, formerly of Pontiac, worked for the Pantagraph until 1967. She now is associate editor of the Beckley (W. Va.) Post-Herald.

Hostick, "but few Lincoln items have come from there and few are known to exist."

Did no one bother to save anything signed by Abraham Lincoln, or are there many Lincoln items being preserved without public knowledge?

Unlikely Reservoir

Mr. Hostick thinks it unlikely there is much here. He reasons that individuals having items would have been attracted by prices being paid in the last few years for Lincolniana.

A market has existed almost from the time of President Lincoln's assassination in 1865, but not to the degree that it has since autograph collecting became a popular hobby.

Autograph dealers rarely have enough Lincoln offerings to issue a list. But Mr. Hostick was able to list 93 Lincoln items in early 1966.

Most of these, including a dozen letters hand-written by Lincoln, were sold within 10 days at from \$150 to \$1,350.

Signed With 'X'

Mr. Hostick also had a receipt signed with an "X" by Lincoln's illiterate step-mother, Sarah Bush Lincoln, to show payment of \$20.50 received by her on June 18, 1857.

The little receipt, with her witnessed mark, survived to become one of the rarest examples of Lincolniana in existence. Mr. Hostick had it priced at \$4,500.



King V. Hostick, Springfield

Letters of any United States president are collector's items but those of Lincoln, Washington, Jefferson and Jackson command the highest prices, according to the dealer.

Kennedy's Valuable

The only 20th century president whose signature ranks with Lincoln's was John F. Kennedy, who did not sign much of his own correspondence. A number of secretaries signed for him, a number of machines signed his robot signature.

Signatures of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Dwight D. Eisenhower and Harry S. Truman are less valuable because they signed more letters.

Lyndon B. Johnson did most of his own signing, but he wrote few memoranda and letters of the type that historians like to collect. For this sort of business, LBJ used the telephone.

It's anybody's guess what the going price would be if one of Truman's three most famous letters went on the market.

How About HST?

In one of these, HST, who was an Army artilleryman in World War I, said that the Marine Corps had nothing but a good public relations department.

In another, he said he wouldn't appoint John L. Lewis dog catcher.

The third, written to U.S. Sen. Paul Douglas of Illinois, concerned dirty Chicago politics.

Mr. Hostick, who provided this information, lives in a turn-of-the-century house at 901 S. College in Springfield. His home reflects a general antiquarian interest.

In his study he is surrounded by large and small Lincoln items. Above his desk is a large oil painting of Lincoln by

William Cogswell, who did the larger version which has graced the White House since 1869.

Started Young

Mr. Hostick was born in Springfield. As a boy he collected stamps and first day covers. He dates his Lincoln interest to age 17, when he joined the personal staff of Gov. Henry Horner.

Governor Horner had a collection of Lincoln manuscripts. He also had more books on Lincoln than any other individual in history.

After Governor Horner's death, Mr. Hostick, who had worked on the Illinois State Register in Springfield, became an overseas correspondent for the Chicago Sun.

During World War II, he held a Navy commission and did public relations work. Then he engaged in professional fund-raising for 15 years and during that time began to deal in manuscripts and letters.

Hobbies Columnist

In recent years, he has spent most of his time traveling — to seek and sell manuscripts and autographs.

He conducts the autograph and manuscript section of Hobbies Magazine. He had done that work briefly as a teenager and resumed it in 1961.

In the spring of 1966, he was appointed by Springfield Mayor Nelson Howarth to serve on the Historical Sites Commission. It controls the Lincoln Home area, the reconstructed capitol and other historical sites in and near Springfield.

He is on the board of the Illinois State Historical Library in Springfield, where there is what he describes as a "formidable" Lincoln collection.

Fete Elmer Wilson

EMDEN (PNS) — Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Bowles entertained guests at a dinner Sunday honoring her uncle, Elmer Wilson of Pekin, whose birthday was Feb. 6.

SYLLABUS

OF

LOCAL

HISTORY



BLOOMINGTON

1971

V. L. Fairfield

east of the city on Illinois Highway 9 served by the Ozark Airlines to Chicago St. Louis, and southwest. The Fairfield-Miller and DC-9 jets are used on two 6,000 foot runways. Both Greyhound and Illini-Swallow bus lines make scheduled routes thru the downtown bus depot.

Highland Park, on the South side, is an attractive eighteen hole golf course owned by the city. Golf may also be played at the Bloomington Country Club; Crestwick Country Club; Lakeside Club; Kappa, 9 miles North; and the new University Course at I.S.U. Forest Park, a small forest preserve, and adjacent Miller Park with its zoo and lake are favorites for picnics, outings, reunions, and band concerts.

Seen from the twelve-story State Farm Building, Bloomington appears to be a vast forest of oaks, maples, and boxelders among its 180 (approximate) miles of streets.

Twelve miles northeast of the city is Lake Bloomington, an impounding of Money Creek, with a shoreline of eighteen miles, which provides a good supply of soft water and recreational facilities. The East Bay Camp is well known to Church groups. Also to the northwest of the city is the new reservoir known as Evergreen Lake. The new reservoir groundbreaking ceremony was April, 1968.

LINCOLN AND BLOOMINGTON

Bloomington and McLean County abound in Lincoln tradition. Here Lincoln rode the circuit in his practice of law. In 1815, he was awarded a \$5,000 legal fee for services regarding the Illinois Central RR, a fabulous fee for those days. At Bloomington, he met such solid citizens as Jesse Fell, Judge David Davis, Isaac Funk, and Lawyer Leonard Swett.

The Republican Party of Illinois was organized at Bloomington on May 29, 1856, at a convention of anti-Kansas-Nebraska men. The Bill, just passed by Congress, repealed the Missouri Compromise and permitted the possibility of slavery in the new territories of Kansas-Nebraska. At the meeting were such men as: Lincoln, Fell, Davis, Medill, Trumbull, Palmer, Oglesby, Yates, Lovejoy and others of the times. According to Lincoln's law partner, William Herndon, it was the "grand effort of his life." He was stoutly against any concession to slavery. A bronze plaque at the southwest corner of Front and East streets now marks the site.

There is an oak tree on the Carl Vrooman property at Jackson and Clinton Streets, marked by a plate, under which both Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglass spoke at different times.

Bloomington, from its early settlement, was strongly anti-slavery, but it was also anti-Abolitionist. Of the first 100 settlers, 67 were from the south, chiefly Kentucky and Virginia, some from the Middle States but few from New England. The dominance of this traditionally Southern, anti-slavery, "free-soil" and anti-Abolitionist attitude continued until well into the 1850's when German emigrants began to come in large numbers. Many black settlers from the South came in the era of World War I and the 1920's.⁹

JESSE FELL

In 1832, as a young man of 24 years, Fell came to Bloomington from Pennsylvania, to become first regular (diplomaed) lawyer in McLean County. His judgement of real estate was excellent. He laid out parts of Pontiac, Lexington, Towanda, Clinton, and El Paso, Illinois. At early dates, he purchased 160 acres of land in Chicago at the junction of branches of the Chicago river, and 320 acres in the heart of Milwaukee, despite comments of friends against investment in lake swampland. Needless to say, both these tracts became worth millions. However, in the financial crash of 1837, Fell became bankrupt, and assigned property to creditors.

He brought the first printing press to McLean County in 1837 with Asahel Gridley and James Allin, and founded the first newspaper in the county. It was called the *Observer and McLean County Advocate*. In 1846, C.P. Herriman founded the *Western Whig*, in which Jesse Fell soon obtained an interest and then bought it out. He changed the name to *The Intelligencer* in 1851, and the name was changed to the *Pantagraph* in 1853, as it remains to this day.

He was active in securing the route of the Chicago & Alton and its repair shops for the city. He founded North Bloomington in 1857, and in the same year helped bring Normal University to the community, its temporary first location being in Major's Hall at Bloomington.

The University of Illinois was incorporated ten years later in 1867, and Fell, not satisfied with having already located at the Illinois State Normal University here, went to work to secure for Normal the new state university. Under his inspiration, McLean County raised more bonus money in its bid for the new university (actually Illinois Industrial Institute) than any other county in the State, but it is said that when a legislator hinted that a bribe was needed for a favorable vote for Bloomington-Normal, Fell indignantly refused, lost interest and his great dream for a complete State University at Normal with a model farm and agricultural college did not materialize.

In 1862, President Lincoln offered Fell the appointment as Quarter Master General of the Army, but Fell declined. Later, he accepted the appointment as Paymaster of the Army with rank of Major. Among the great-grandsons of Jesse and Hester Fell is Allai E. Stevenson II .

The six men, Fell, Davis, Fund, Gridley, McClun and Allin, constituted a sort of *magic circle* that was in the forefront of many efforts for Bloomington. The question may be submitted: Who forms the *magic circle* of, perhaps, ten men in Bloomington today? Who are leaders?

When Jesse W. Fell died in 1887, his funeral services were held in the great hall of the Normal University, the only service of such nature ever held there, and his cortege extended from that Hall to the Courthouse at Bloomington, about two miles. There is an inscription to him at the Fell Gate main entrance to Normal University on North Street, Normal.

ISAAC FUNK

About twelve miles southwest of Bloomington, Highway 66 (Interstate 55) passes through Funk's Grove a majestic remnant of the great hardwood groves that once covered considerable parts of the county. Parts of the original timber have been carefully preserved. He was famous through Illinois as a cattleman, an agriculturist and large landowner. He was one of the founders of Illinois Wesleyan University, a leader in the formation of the Republican Party of Illinois, and a member of the Illinois Senate in 1863. In that year, when the Union cause was at a low ebb, disloyalty to the Union cause was strong, even in the Illinois Legislature, and a spirit of defeatism was undermining the leadership of President Lincoln, doughty Isaac Funk, who was born in the

southern border state of Kentucky, rose in the Senate of Illinois and let loose a blast of plain talk that stemmed the tide of pessimism. He denounced "traitors" and "secessionists" as deserving a "hempen collar" and declared that he was ready to meet any man of then in any manner from the pin's point to the mouth of the cannon."

Portraits of him hang in the Farmer's Hall of Fame at the University of Illinois and in the gallery of the Saddle and Sirloin Club at the stockyards in Chicago.

JUDGE DAVID DAVIS

Born in Maryland in 1815, and studied law at Yale, he settled at Bloomington in 1836. He practiced law here, was a member of the General Assembly, served in the Constitutional Convention of Illinois in 1847, was elected Circuit Judge in 1848, and was re-elected in 1855 and 1861. He was the judge of the Circuit Court before whom Lincoln appeared on his frequent visits to McLean County.

In 1862, President Lincoln appointed Judge Davis to the Supreme Court of the United States, where he served until 1877. In 1872, Judge David Davis, known as a warm friend of the martyred Lincoln, was a strong candidate for the new Liberal Republican Party's nomination for President.

In 1877, Judge Davis resigned from the Supreme Court to become U. S. Senator from Illinois. In 1881, when President Garfield was assassinated and Chester Arthur, Vice President and presiding officer of the Senate became president, Senator Davis was elected by his fellow Senators to serve as President Pro Tempore of the Senate, which he did until expiration of his term in 1883. David Davis IV, great-grandson, was a State Senator in Illinois for McLean and Ford Counties before retirement in the 1960's.

OTHER NOTABLE PERSONS

Bloomington was the birthplace of Elbert Hubbard, famous writer, author of "*A Message to Garcia*," a piece of Americana that bears re-reading.

Other well-known persons, identified by origin in or around Bloomington include; Adlai E. Stevenson I, Vice President of the United States from 1892-96; Carl Vrooman, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture of the U. S. 1914-17; General James

Harbord, Chief of Staff of the U. S. Army 1918; Joseph Fifer, known as "Private Joe" a reference to his Civil War service, Illinois Governor 1889-93; John M. Hamilton, Bloomington attorney, elected Lt. Governor in 1880, became Governor 1883-85 when Governor Cullom was elected to U.S. Senate; Margaret Illington (stage name for Illinois/Bloomington), born Maude Light, famous stage actress and wife of the late Major Edward Bowes (Original Amateur Hour-Radio); Richard Henry Little, originator of the Chicago Tribune's "*Line o' Type or Two*;" George Mecherle, founder of State Farm Insurance; Marie Litta (Marie Von Elsnér), the American "Jenny Lind;" Dr. Watson Gailey, world-renowned ophthalmologist; Major John W. Powell, of ISNU and IWU, explorer and first man to navigate the Colorado river through the Grand Canyon; Harold Sinclair, novelist, author of the "*The Horse Soldiers*."

Nor has Bloomington been lacking in many other interesting and colorful figures. There is Billy Darnbrough, the man who made a fortune at the bank of Monte Carlo in 1912; Gordon Lillie, the "Pawnee Bill" of wild-west fame; Charlie Redbourne, a great baseball pitcher; Pete and Chalmers Elliott, both All-American football stars; General Charles Hovey, first President of ISNU, who left the campus to head a regiment in the Civil War; Henry Petrie, author of "*Asleep in the Deep*;" Florence Fifer Bohrer, first woman Senator in Illinois; James Allin, often called the founder of Bloomington, Judge John McClun, pioneer merchant; Asahel Gridley, Bloomington's first millionaire; Melville Stone, founder of the Chicago Daily News; and many more too numerous to mention in writing. Question to the student: Whom would you add to the list since 1950?

THE DAILY PANTAGRAPH

The Pantagraph is the oldest institution in the county other than the government itself. In 1955, it had an average daily distribution of 38,400 and a 99% coverage of families in Bloomington-Normal and a 94% mark for McLean County as well as a strong influence in neighboring counties. (The Normalite, a weekly, is published in the town of Normal nearby.) As of March 31, 1971 the Pantagraph circulation was 47,412.¹⁰

Originally Whig in sentiment, it became, in 1856, one of the first to support Lincoln for President. It is now regarded as a Republican, but strongly independent newspaper. The word "Pantagraph" is derived from Greek meaning "write all things."

David Davis Mansion

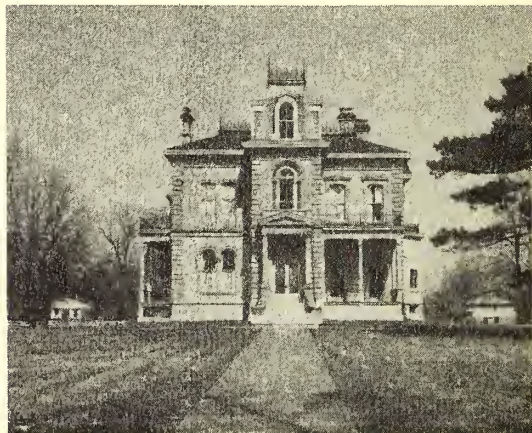
*Illinois
Historic
Preservation
Agency*

The David Davis Mansion

The David Davis Mansion, completed in 1872, is a model of Victorian style and taste. Built for U.S. Supreme Court Judge David Davis, the fifteen-room house was occupied by several generations of the Davis family. The mansion was donated to the State of Illinois in 1959 by David Davis IV and his nieces.

David Davis was a long-time Bloomington resident. He established a law practice there in 1836 and married Sarah Walker, the daughter of a Lenox, Massachusetts judge, two years later. In 1844 Davis acquired 200 acres and a frame farmhouse on Bloomington's eastern edge. Davis and his family occupied the old farmhouse for 28 years (1844-1872). During that time they added 1,000 more acres to the property.

In 1870 the Davises began work on a new brick house, one more in keeping with their considerable wealth and social standing. Davis had been appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court eight years earlier. He hired Alfred Piquenard, one of the Midwest's leading architects, to design the new residence. The old farmhouse was moved off its foundation, and in its place the grand yellow brick mansion took shape.



David Davis Mansion



ornate dining room ceiling

Victorian Design

Piquenard did not confine the mansion's architecture to one particular style; instead he combined elements of several historical styles to create a picturesque silhouette. Victorian architects, like Piquenard, employed a wide variety of textures and shapes in an attempt to imitate the diversity of nature. No two pairs of windows are identical in design, and the decorative iron railing surrounding the porch, second-floor windows, and roof are all different. Even the seven chimneys are of various sizes and shapes. Piquenard also combined features to create an asymmetrical — but not unbalanced — design. Rather than repeating the same pattern on each side of the tower, he punctuated the building's exterior with dissimilar bay windows, open porches, and balconies.

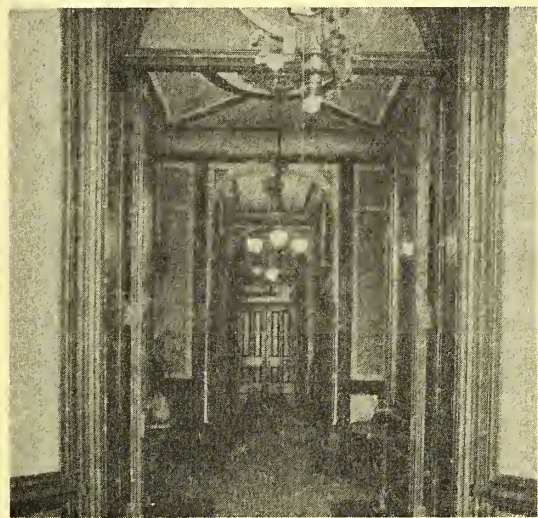
Genteel Victorian Interior

The same Victorian tastes are exhibited in the Davis Mansion's interior furnishings and design. Sarah Davis, who was largely responsible for decorating the home, chose genteel furnishings. The parlor is fashionably furnished and elegantly decorated. Its striking marble fireplace, made

of Carrara marble quarried in Italy, is far more elaborate than the mansion's seven others. The center table, sofa, and seven chairs in the parlor are constructed of walnut in the Renaissance Revival style. Those fancy pieces were purchased from a New York furniture maker in 1872.

The sitting room was designed for comfort and the furnishings more casual. The upholstered furniture — a lounge, arm chair, and two side chairs — were less elaborate and casually arranged. The Judge's maple rocking chair, simple and unstylish compared to the other furnishings, was placed near the fireplace.

The dining room was also fashionably appointed. Although most Victorian dining rooms were equipped with one sideboard, the Davises had two. One was a family heirloom from the Judge's Maryland birthplace; the other was purchased especially for the mansion, its marble top matching the fireplace.



main hall

Decoration in the mansion's bedrooms is simple yet refined. Plaster mouldings replace the carved woodwork found in the downstairs rooms. Each bedroom also contains a marble fireplace and washstand.

A "Comfortable" and "Convenient" Home

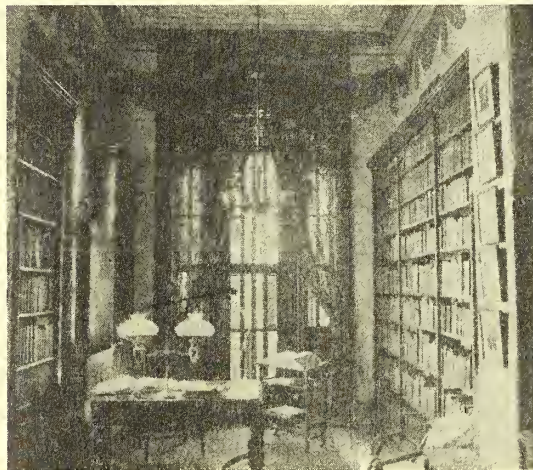
Sarah Davis described her new home as "comfortable" and "convenient." With its cast-iron cooking stove, central heating system, and indoor plumbing, the Davis Mansion boasted the latest in home improvements.

A modern coal burning cast-iron cooking stove was the centerpiece of the Davis kitchen. The Davis stove was an elaborate and expensive model that held two large baking ovens and two smaller warming ovens. A built-in ash sifter was conveniently connected to the basement.

The Davis Mansion's central hot-air furnace represented the latest in heating technology. The modern coal burning furnace was more efficient and convenient than the fireplaces and Franklin stoves that heated most homes. Still, eight marble fireplaces were located throughout the house.

Indoor plumbing, a luxury available only to the wealthy in the 1870's, was another modern convenience. Water was gravity fed to three bathrooms from a large holding tank in the attic. While most bathrooms of the day were designed solely for bathing, the Davis Mansion bathrooms featured basins, tubs, and flush toilets.

library



Public, Private, Servant Areas

The Davis Mansion is divided with a Victorian sense of propriety into separate areas for family, visitors, and servants. A central hallway separates the public and private rooms, while the servants' rooms and housekeeping functions were confined to the rear wing.

The mansion's public rooms — the parlor and dining room — were connected, making it possible to unite the two for entertaining. Across the hall were rooms reserved for family use. Family members apparently spent much of their time in the sitting room reading, writing letters, and taking informal meals. Judge Davis's bedroom was also located on the first floor across from the sitting room.

The location and design of the servants' wing allowed the Davis's servants to complete their chores without intruding on the family or guests at the front of the house. Two servants' bedrooms were located directly above the kitchen. A rear stairway connected those levels with the basement and attic, clearly separating the housekeeping functions from the rest of the house.

sitting room



David Davis

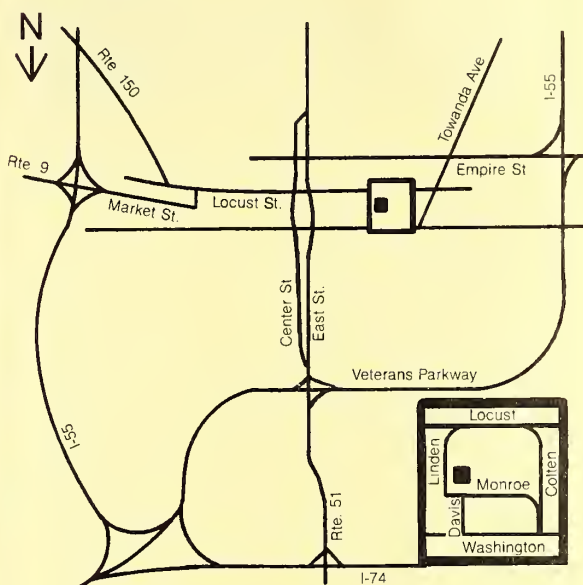
David Davis (1815–1886) was a noted lawyer and judge, politician, and Supreme Court justice. Active in state and national Republican politics, Davis was elected in 1844 to the state legislature and three years later served at the Illinois Constitutional Convention. In 1848 he was elected judge of the Eighth Judicial Circuit, a position that placed him in regular contact with lawyer Abraham Lincoln. The two developed a close friendship while riding the circuit, which covered fourteen central Illinois counties.

Davis is credited with engineering Lincoln's presidential nomination at the 1860 Republican convention where he worked tirelessly for days organizing Lincoln supporters and lobbying delegates. Lincoln rewarded him in 1862 with a Supreme Court appointment, a position he held until his election to the Senate in 1877. While on the Court, Davis wrote the majority opinion in *Ex parte Milligan*, a landmark decision restricting the right of military courts to try civilians.

Davis disassociated himself from the Republican party after the Civil War and in 1872 ran for president as a Liberal Republican. Five years later he was elected to the Senate, a position he held until he retired, in 1883, to Bloomington. Davis died there 3 years later.

Tours

Tours of the David Davis Mansion are available Thursday through Monday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.. Reservations are required for groups of more than ten. For additional information, write Site Manager, David Davis Mansion, 1000 East Monroe St., Bloomington, IL 61701, or phone 309-828-1084.



Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

Old State Capitol • Springfield, Illinois 62701

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Davis Mansion again a home for the holidays

By DAN CRAFT
Pantagraph staff

Pantagraph
12/3/93



The Pantagraph/STEVE SMEDLEY

The Dec. 23, 1875, wedding of Judge David Davis' daughter will be re-created in a series of Christmas tours beginning Saturday at the restored David Davis Mansion State Historic Site in Bloomington. Among the volunteers who will be acting as costumed interpreters is Cathy Winn of Merna.

Christmas is returning to Bloomington's recently restored David Davis Mansion State Historic Site for the first time in six years.

And, for the first time since the public tours began nearly a decade ago, it will be an accurately re-created David Davis Christmas.

Not that the past holidays at the mansion were grossly in error, you see — it's just that they were slightly out of synch with an accurate evocation of the mansion's key time frame.

According to curator Rebecca Landau, the florid decorations, towering Christmas trees and other lavish ornamentation linked with a Victorian yuletide in the public imagination date from around the 1890s.

However, the David Davis mansion, a.k.a. Clover Lawn, was built 20 years earlier in 1872 as the residence of U.S. Supreme Court Justice David Davis and his wife, Sarah.

The 1870s, then, not the 1890s, was the decade of Clover Lawn's historic heyday.

Although the Davises rarely spent Christmas in Bloomington, it's a known fact that the couple was in town for at least one holiday week: Christmas 1875, when their daughter, Sallie, was married in the mansion's main parlor the evening of Dec. 23.

And therein lies the inspiration for the tour's new theme, "A Brilliant Wedding at Clover Lawn" (see accompanying story for dates and times).

By returning the holiday decor to the proper time frame and combining it with a winter wedding celebration, several knotty problems have been solved, according to Ms. Landau.

Because the money-strapped Illinois State Historic Preservation Agency can no longer

Please see DAVIS, B2

B2 THE PANTAGRAPH, Friday, Dec. 3, 1993

DAVIS

From B1

fund special events at its historic sites, the David Davis Mansion Foundation found itself faced with a dilemma.

The foundation didn't have the money to decorate the 13,700-square-foot premises for the kind of lavish, if historically inaccurate, Victorian Christmas depicted in the tour's first years, from 1984 to 1987.

And, after the state spent \$2.58 million on a lengthy restoration of the home, which forced cancellation of tours from 1988 to 1992, no one wanted to do anything that would imperil either the exterior or interior improvements.

Yet the Christmas tours were the mansion's most popular annual event. "It had really become a tradition," Ms. Landau says.

The solution: Go the more minimalist and historically authentic 1870s Christmas route; downplay the minimalism by combining it with the winter wedding; and fund the decorations by charging an admission to a series of special evening tours.

"We're meeting the interest of the public with a faithful re-creation of an event that actually took place here," Ms. Landau says. Despite the Davis family's frequent absence at Christmas, "We feel it's fairly accurate."

Women's magazines of the period were used for information on home decorations, she says, with additional information gleaned from Sarah Davis' personal letters. For details of the wedding itself, a Dec.

Day, evening tours are available

There are three ways to attend "A Brilliant Wedding at Clover Lawn," the special Christmas event scheduled through December at Bloomington's restored David Davis Mansion State Historic Site, 1000 E. Monroe St.:

- Starting Saturday, free daytime tours of the decorated Victorian mansion will be conducted on a first-come, first-served basis from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursdays through Mondays.

- Special "gaslight" tours will be offered on a ticketed basis from 5 to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, and Dec. 11 and Dec. 12. Tickets are \$5 per person and may be purchased in advance at the David Davis Mansion's Barn/Visitors Center

(note: this Saturday's tour is sold out). Unlike the free daytime tours, the evening tours will feature costumed interpreters, live period music, refreshments and simulated gas lighting in each room.

- Special-rate family tours will be offered from 1 to 8 p.m. this Wednesday only. The event also features interpreters in period costumes, live period music and refreshments. Tickets are \$10 per family of six and also may be purchased at the visitors center.

The mansion will be closed today for decorating, as well as on Christmas Eve and Day, and New Year's Eve and Day. Further information can be obtained by calling (309) 828-1084.

24, 1875, Pantagraph newspaper account proved helpful.

According to the story, the marriage of Sallie Worthing Davis to Henry Stewart Shayne was "a matrimonial event which excites the interest and attention of the social world, not alone of Bloomington but creates a pleasant thrill of excitement throughout the Union...."

The account further notes that "a leading characteristic of the household of Judge Davis has always been the simplicity and lack of ostentation (sic) which pervaded it, and which have entered into all actions of the family. This idea characterized the arrangements for the marriage, noticeable in every detail."

In re-creating the event, Ms.

Landau says the wedding decor and costumes have been assembled from the mansion's own collection, as well as the collections of other museums and historical organizations. Floral displays are being donated by Casey's Garden Shop, while a mockup of the lavish wedding buffet is being created by Gracious Affairs. Most crucially, more than 120 volunteers have contributed their time and energy.

As for the holiday trimmings, an 1870s Christmas was a much more subdued affair than one of the 1890s, says Ms. Landau: no 13-foot-tall trees looming in every room, less greenery draped from every available rafter and an overall air of tasteful restraint.

Because of restrictions imposed by the restoration project, that's

probably just as well.

The mansion's site technician, Earl Woollen, says that nails were used to secure greenery to the exterior and interior of the home in the past. But now "we don't want to deface the property," he says. "So it's not as elaborate as it used to be, but it'll still be nice" — nice, as in 600 feet of roping for the mansion and the barn in back.

In addition, there will be no lit candles or kerosene lamps in the house, and no live Christmas trees.

Woollen recalls that the first year of the tours, live greens were used everywhere. "We were forever getting the needles out. I was still finding them six months later."

Other rules imposed to protect the new carpets and restored floors: No colored beverages, chocolates or fruit-based foods may be served in the restored rooms. And visitors are asked to don protective shoe slippers provided at the beginning of the tour.

Meanwhile, the gas lighting for the evening tours will be simulated through the dimming of electric lights to appropriate lower levels.

Despite the new rules, the funding cuts and the shift to a more spartan 1870s Victorian motif, Ms. Landau says that Christmas at the David Davis Mansion still will offer visitors a memorable holiday experience.

"Even though it's more restrained," she says, "we think it's splendid."

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Lincoln's 1858 speech cited at ribbon-cutting of newest wind farm

By Kevin Barlow | kbarlow@pantagraph.com | Posted: Wednesday, July 22, 2009 12:05 am

EMDEN -- It may not be his best-known composition, but a little-known speech Abraham Lincoln delivered in 1858 in Bloomington seemed apt to the developers of a wind farm named in his honor and dedicated Tuesday near Emden.

"Of all the forces of nature, the wind contains the largest amount of motive power," Lincoln wrote in the speech later restructured into a poem called "Farming the Wind."

"As yet the wind is an untamed and unharnessed force; and quite possibly one of the greatest discoveries hereafter to be made will be the taming and harnessing of the wind." *Apr. 6, 1858*

More than 150 years later, Lincoln's vision is embodied by the \$200 million Rail Splitter Wind Farm, a scattering of 67 wind turbines, each 260 feet tall, across 11,000 acres in Logan and Tazewell counties. On Tuesday, the memory of the 16th president played a role in the wind farm's ribbon-cutting ceremony that drew about 350 people to a field near Emden.

"It's very fitting that we are so close to all of this history of Abraham Lincoln and he was able to see the value of wind energy 150 years ago," said Gabriel Alonso, CEO of the developer, Texas-based Horizon Wind Energy. "Everyone in this area is so proud of what he accomplished and this proves just how great his foresight really was."

The ceremony included speeches from state Sen. Bill Brady, R-Bloomington, Logan County Board member Bill Martin, Tazewell County Farm Bureau manager Doug Godke, landowners and other officials.

"This is like crossing the finish line of a big journey or race," said Horizon project manager John Fulton. "We didn't finish it as quickly as we had hoped, but there is a lot to do in completing a project like this.

"But it's a reality now and will serve the neighboring communities well, long into the future."

The wind farm, which began producing energy in June, is expected to produce enough electricity to power approximately 30,000 average Illinois homes each year.

Martin said the addition of a wind farm was a good idea. He said it generates electricity from a free, endless energy source that doesn't pollute or produce harmful waste.

"Yes, there were some who opposed it, but this is something that just makes sense," he said.

Rail Splitter, using a nickname for Lincoln, is the company's 16th wind farm.

Construction created about 200 jobs, developers said. Once it is fully operational, it will create 10 to 15 permanent, full-time jobs and is projected to yield about \$234,000 in tax revenue the first year, according to previous Horizon estimates.

"One of the byproducts of this wind farm is the fact that this project brought community leaders together, and they are in agreement on something," Brady said. "The economy in Illinois has been struggling, but this will provide Illinois with a long-term competitive advantage and will lead to business development and job creation, which, in turn, allows families to continue to be here."

PANTAGRAPH.COM

Resurrecting Abe

Campaign looks to raise \$225K to cast Lincoln statue

By Scott Richardson | srichardson@pantagraph.com | Posted: Saturday, August 29, 2009 4:20 pm

BLOOMINGTON - Historians think a conversation Abraham Lincoln had about his chances to become president could have happened just the way Twin City artist Andrew Jumonville envisions it.

The year was about 1858. Walking the streets of Bloomington, Lincoln peers off in the distance as he weighs the words of his two closest advisors.

Pantagraph publisher Jesse Fell and Judge David Davis of Bloomington walk on either side. Both are intensely animated, keeping eye contact with their taller friend as they urge him to run. Davis looks thinner, more fit, as he did in those days. Davis, whom Lincoln later named to the U.S. Supreme Court, gained his girth later in life.

The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission of McLean County wants to raise \$225,000 to have Jumonville's vision of the scene cast in bronze.

Plans call for the life-sized statue, titled "Convergence of Purpose," to be permanently placed in the park in front of the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts. Lincoln quotes will be etched in the sidewalks approaching the work from several directions. Target date for completion is some time next year.

"A significant figure" toward the fundraising goal has been raised privately, said Greg Koos, a member of the commission and director of the McLean County Museum of History. He'll disclose the amount when the commission kicks off its public fundraising campaign from 5 to 8 p.m. Sept. 11 at the McLean County Arts Center. Tickets are \$50.

To date, primary donors include State Farm Insurance Cos., The Fell Foundation, The Merwin Foundation, Commerce Bank and Kemper Foundation, the Illinois Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and descendants of David Davis. The Fell Foundation also has agreed to match new donations dollar for dollar up to \$25,000.

Every member of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission of McLean County also contributed.

The commission was set up a couple of years go with financing from the governments of Bloomington, Normal and McLean County to underscore Lincoln's connection to Bloomington, which Koos called Lincoln's "second city" behind Springfield.

Commission members decided on the concept of Lincoln and the two Bloomington men who were instrumental to his successful bid for the White House. Interested artists nationwide were asked to submit portfolios. Jumonville was among the top three contenders asked to submit mock-ups of their ideas.

His model clearly stood out from the others, said Koos and Marcia Young, director of the David Davis Mansion State Historic Site in Bloomington and also a member of the bicentennial commission.

"He (Jumonville) was bold enough to suggest these were human beings with emotions," Koos said.

"It just seemed like the right thing to do," Jumonville said. "When we talk about Lincoln, it's all about action. It's things done. It's on the go, in the moment. They wanted to illustrate the process of making a decision to run for president. It's in process, it's in movement."

The statue will be one of the very few works to feature Lincoln with other people, Koos said. Most statues, paintings and photos feature the 16th president alone.

Asked why Fell and Davis were chosen to appear with Lincoln, Young described a well-documented conversation Fell had with the future president.

As a newspaper publisher and a man active in politics, Fell knew publicity was critical. Fell urged Lincoln to write an autobiography and then made sure the pages were distributed on the east coast. Lincoln was not well known there, but Fell had strong eastern connections,

including in Pennsylvania. Fell also had good contacts in the emerging Republican Party, Koos said.

Davis, whose mansion remains a top Lincoln-related tourist attraction in Illinois, was a longtime friend of Lincoln's from the days when both men rode the court circuit in Central Illinois. Lincoln was a lawyer, Davis was a judge.

"Davis was in many ways a mentor to Lincoln, a person who helped hone him, helped transform him from the back country laborer he was to one of the most successful attorneys working in the Midwest," Koos said.

Still, Young said Davis took some time to envision Lincoln as presidential material.

"But once he figured out Lincoln should run, once Davis grasped the idea, he was very enthusiastic," Young said. "Davis was a great organizer. ...He was probably one of the two most important organizers in Chicago (at the nominating convention) to get delegations to support Lincoln."

Through his wife, Sarah, Davis also had strong political connections with influential families on the east coast.

"Fell once was credited with Lincoln's election, but Fell said, 'No, it was David Davis,' " Young said.

Kickoff

What: Kickoff gala for a fundraising campaign to raise \$225,000 to build a life-sized bronze statue of Abraham Lincoln, Jesse Fell and David Davis

Where: McLean County Arts Center, 601 N. East St., Bloomington

When: 5 to 8 p.m. Sept. 11

Cost: \$50 per ticket

Sponsor: Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission of McLean County

More information: E-mail gregkoos@mchistory.org or call (309) 827-0428

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Lincoln linked to early Bloomington hotel

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Lincoln linked to early Bloomington hotel

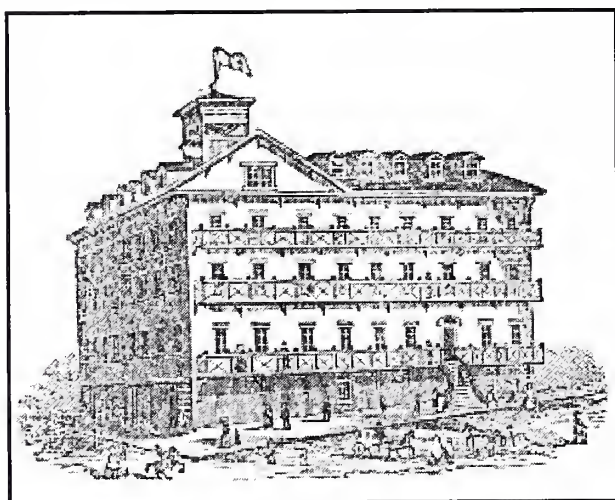
By Bill Kemp | Archivist/librarian McLean County Museum of History pantagraph.com | Posted:
Sunday, October 9, 2011 2:00 pm | No Comments Posted

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[Buy this photo](#) Courtesy of the McLean County Mu This image appeared in most Pike (and later Landon) House advertisements. (Image courtesy of the McLean County Museum of History)

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BLOOMINGTON — The first railroad lines reached Bloomington in 1853, and with that transformative transportation technology came a flood of newcomers, many needing overnight or weekly accommodations. Although the fast-growing city had existing hotels and taverns offering

room and board, what it lacked was a showpiece establishment to compete with those in other downstate communities.

Opened in 1854, the Pike House (later renamed the Landon) fit the bill. Located on the southeast corner of Center and North (now Monroe) streets, the wood frame, four-story hotel with Greek Revival details covered about one-quarter of a city block, making it one of the more substantial structures in the city.

The hotel also played host to the likes of Abraham Lincoln and his archrival, U.S. Sen. Stephen A. Douglas, as the two men clashed off and on during the latter half of the 1850s over the monumental issue of the age — the spread of slavery into western territories.

On May 28-29, 1856, for instance, the Pike House buzzed with political fervor as delegates from all over the state gathered in Bloomington to establish what would soon become the Republican Party of Illinois. Lincoln delivered the confab's keynote address (now known as the "Lost Speech") at nearby Major's Hall, rallying disparate groups to oppose the Douglas-authored Kansas-Nebraska Act that overturned the Missouri Compromise and threatened to open slavery into previously free northern territories.

"The verandahs, halls, and doorways of the Pike House are crowded with a dense mass of delegates," reported a correspondent for the Chicago Democratic Press on May 29. "While I am writing, speakers are addressing the people from the portico of the Pike House. The feeling is intense, and in every bosom beats the stern resolve to relieve our noble state from the stigma (Douglas and his Nebraska Act) under which it now rests." The correspondent noted that previous day speakers at the hotel included Lincoln, future governor John M. Palmer and congressman Elihu Washburne.

In 1899, Judge Lawrence Weldon of Bloomington reminisced about a dinner at the Pike House that he attended with Lincoln and Douglas. If Weldon's account is to be believed, the meeting took place around 1857, since Douglas was accompanied by his young new wife Adele Cutts. During the dinner, Cutts asked Lincoln if he had ever been to Europe (he, of course, had not). Later, she asked if he had been to another, presumably exotic, place. "Madam," Lincoln replied, "not to be abrupt, but to cut the matter short, the truth is I have never been anywhere."

Lincoln's connection to the hotel went beyond dinner guest and speechifier. In 1856, owner Meshach Pike retained the Springfield lawyer in a dispute involving the sale of the hotel. Pike sued for damages over the botched deal, and though a Bloomington jury ruled against him, he regained ownership of the hotel.

Originally from Maine, Pike himself was a newcomer to Bloomington, having erected the hotel not long after his arrival. His public success, though, was colored by personal tragedy, as his 13-

month-old son Edwin passed away at the hotel in June 1857, and his 39-year-old wife Ethalinda followed a year later.

Pike sold his hotel in late 1857 (this time absent legal entanglements) to R.R. Landon, and the establishment took the name of the new owner. Even with the change in ownership, the hotel kept its reputation intact — at least when it came to sumptuous meals. In 1858, The Pantagraph called a Landon House dinner celebrating George Washington's birthday "the finest affair of the kind that ever took place in Bloomington." The odd table fare (from a 21st century perspective, that is) included two beef tongues "dressed up into good imitations of cannon."

The Landon, much like the Pike, also served as temporary offices for itinerant physicians, some legitimate, some not. In December 1857, to cite two examples, Dr. E. Reading of the "Chicago Lung Infirmary" was at the hotel for a week of consultations on "all cases of consumption, bronchitis, liver complaint (etc.) ..," and Dr. Lamissisquoi, billed as the "Indian Cancer Doctor," promised to remove "tumors, tonsils [and] polypus," as well as cure deafness.

The hotel was lost to a fire in the early 1860s (accounts vary as to the year). A new hotel, the Phoenix, eventually occupied part of the old footprint, though it too was destroyed by flames — in this case spectacularly during the Great Fire of June 19, 1900.

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Posted in History-and-events, Local, News on *Sunday, October 9, 2011 2:00 pm* Updated: 1:35 am.

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Abraham Lincoln and Bloomington

by WAYNE C. TOWNLEY

A BRAHAM Lincoln — without Bloomington — would never have been President of the United States.

Here lived and practiced Leonard Swett, who, Thurlow Weed declared, did more to secure his nomination than any one man.

Here lived Jesse Fell, who secured the autobiography and gave it to the country.

Here presided Judge Davis, whose political advice was invaluable.

Here practiced Ward Hill Lamon,

Lincoln's bodyguard on the way to the inauguration and his confidential friend.

Here lived the army of voters who threw their support to him when his own county wavered.

This was the scene of many of his greatest court triumphs and here he won his suit against the Illinois Central Railroad Company, recovering an attorney fee of five thousand dollars, the largest fee he ever collected.

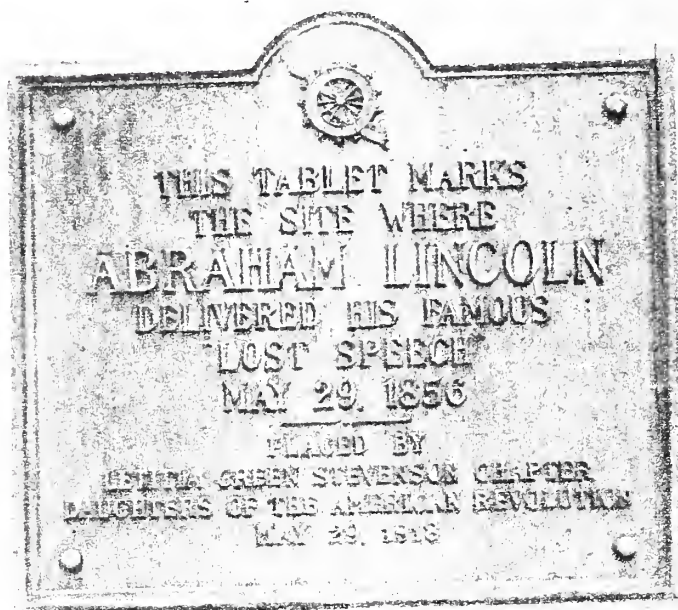
This was the scene of many of his greatest debates, which made him the

superior of Stephen A. Douglas.

Here he gave his "Lost Speech," the greatest one prior to the presidency, which gave him the leadership of the Republican party.

The friends, the environment, the opportunities here in the courts and in politics encouraged and developed him.

The Eighth Circuit, McLean County and Bloomington particularly, may well take pride in its part in the development of the world's greatest citizen.



Tablet on outside wall of hall at Bloomington where Lincoln delivered his "lost speech."

Tablet at Bloomington, Ill

A biographical memorial tablet was dedicated to Abraham Lincoln at Bloomington on June 2, commemorating and marking the site where Lincoln wrote the only biography of his early life. It was placed on the east side of the McLean county court house and was dedicated under the auspices of the Bloomington chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Abe Lincoln Landmark Will Be Torn Down

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. (AP) — An Abraham Lincoln landmark is to be torn down for a parking lot and many history-minded folk in this Land of Lincoln aren't happy about it.

The City Council has proposed that the old brick building in which Lincoln made his famous "lost speech" be leveled with five other nearby structures to make way for the lot.

Irate opponents, meanwhile, have served notice they will fight for Majors Hall and preserve it as a monument to Lincoln and the Republican Party.

Historians say Lincoln's speech delivered May 2, 1856, was so inspiring that no listener retained presence of mind to record it. The speech helped organize the GOP in Illinois and gave impetus to Lincoln's eventual march to the White House four years later.

Culturally minded citizens contend the two-story building would make room for only about eight automobiles in a parking lot and that the building's value certainly is worth more than that to the community.

What remains of the old structure is anything but monumental, however. The third floor of the building, in which Lincoln gave his address, was destroyed by fire years ago. A grocery occupies a portion of the building and several apartments occupy the remainder.

Only a weather-beaten wooden plaque nailed to the corner of the structure serves as a reminder that the country lawyer who became the Civil War president once spoke there.

There are two traditions extant which place the first visit of Lincoln to Bloomington a year earlier. David Davis is responsible for one mentioned by Beveridge in his two volume work. An Englishman named Mr. Baddeley apparently related the other incident which was circulated by Francis Trevor Hill in his book Lincoln The Lawyer. Lincoln moved to Springfield on April 15, 1837 and "commenced the practice" of law "Stuart taking him into partnership." Twelve days later the McLean Circuit Court began a three days session. Stuart was present. On May 7 Lincoln wrote a letter to Mary Owens at New Salem with no mention of a trip to Bloomington

and the contents imply that Lincoln had been in Springfield for the entire five weeks since he left New Salem. Likewise in the September term of the McLean Circuit Court, which convened on the twenty-fifty and lasted five days, Lincoln was in Springfield for the first three days of the session and it is not likely he was there for only the two closing days. If Lincoln visited ^{McLean County} ~~Bloomington~~ in 1837 apparently it was not during the two sessions of the Circuit Court.

Old Courthouse Museum

McLEAN
COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



McLean County — an area of 1,173 square miles. A place with rich soil, varied people, and an exciting history. Experience the past of this Central Illinois community at the McLean County Historical Society.

Housed in the beautiful 1903 Old Courthouse, the McLean County Historical Society offers a rare glimpse into the lives of its residents.

Explore our permanent exhibit, *Encounter on the Prairie*, to gain an understanding of how early settlers met on the prairie and joined together to form a thriving community which has endured to become one of the finest in the state.

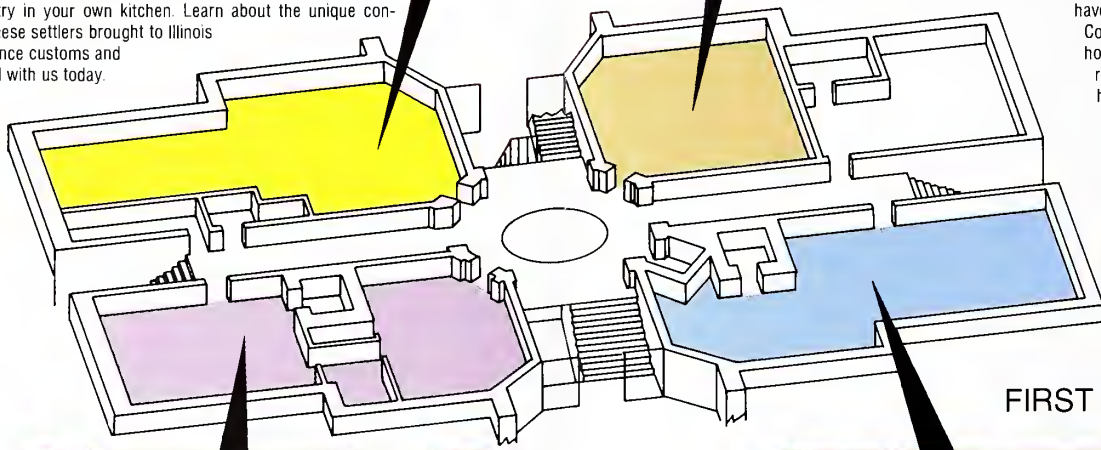
Visit our four galleries — *People*, *Work*, *Politics* and *Farming*. Investigate the contributions of our residents, relive the past, and witness how the county has evolved into a prosperous community.



In the *People Gallery* you will meet the diverse people who came from around the world to settle in McLean County and call it home. Encounter the folkways and lives of Native Americans, Upland Southerners, Yankees, Germans, Irish, and African Americans. View kitchens from these various cultural groups and take home authentic recipes to try in your own kitchen. Learn about the unique contributions these settlers brought to Illinois and experience customs and legacies still with us today.



Politics has always been an important issue to the residents of McLean County. Tour our *Politics Gallery* and gain insight into our long history of involvement. Test your beliefs and see which political parties share your ideas. Meet Abraham Lincoln, David Davis and Adlai Stevenson, as well as the common people who have called McLean County home. See how important the role of education has been among the people. Experience the involvement of our residents in the wars — from the Indian Wars through World War II.



FIRST FLOOR



The *Work Gallery* takes you on a tour through the many occupations and industries of the residents of McLean County — from merchants, lawyers and seamstresses, to railroads, manufacturing and insurance. View the many goods produced by McLean County businesses. Try your hand at working in the "Wheel Shop" of the Chicago and Alton train shops. Step inside the "prisoner holding cell" to await your trial in the courthouse.



Continue your exploration by stepping into the *Farming Gallery*. See how farming has changed through the years in the county. View the prairie grass which once covered the area. Examine how settlers broke up the prairie sod and drained the swampy areas to uncover the rich, fertile soil. Relive the days when the town of Normal was famous for its horses, and experience the pride of the farmers of McLean County.

The history of McLean County, from its beginnings as a pioneer settlement on the Illinois prairie, through its development into a vibrant community, is the story of people from diverse cultures, backgrounds and beliefs. Their lives and work, their hopes and accomplishments, are a reminder of the past and a prelude to

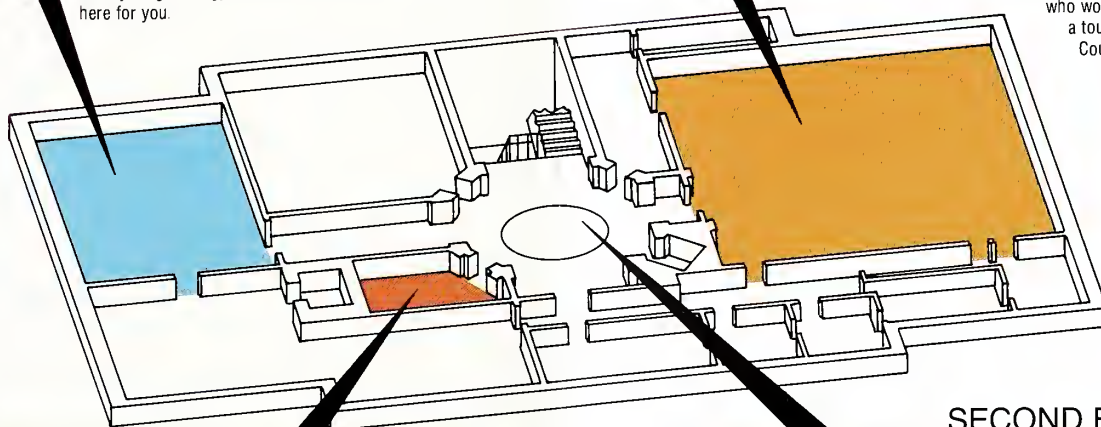
the future growth and prosperity of the area and its inhabitants. It is this rich and varied heritage, its lessons, and its promise of continued excellence, that the McLean County Historical Society seeks to preserve, to document, and to interpret.



The Stevenson-Ives Library offers a rich treasure of books and manuscripts which record the history of McLean County and its families. Whether your interests are in history or genealogy, outstanding sources are available here for you.



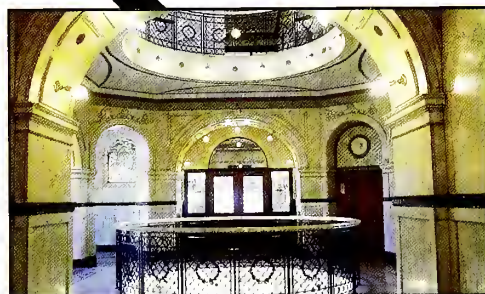
View the Governor Fifer Courtroom, where court was in session from 1903 until 1974. This room, with its original Judge's bench, is available for rental to not-for-profit organizations as well as businesses and corporations who would like to add a touch of McLean County history to their business meetings. Private rental is also available.



SECOND FLOOR



The On the Square Museum Store offers a wide variety of gifts and souvenirs from McLean County. Browse through the books, savor some of the tasty products produced in McLean County, or pick up a memento that reminds you of the past. Take a bit of McLean County home with you.



Explore the magnificent architecture of the Old Courthouse, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. You will admire the craftsmanship in evidence throughout the building, where the various elements of marble, bronze, mahogany and mosaic tile are blended into an artistic whole in this architectural gem.

The McLean County Historical Society is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, the Society is open from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. The facility is closed on Sunday. In addition, the site is closed on New Year's, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving,

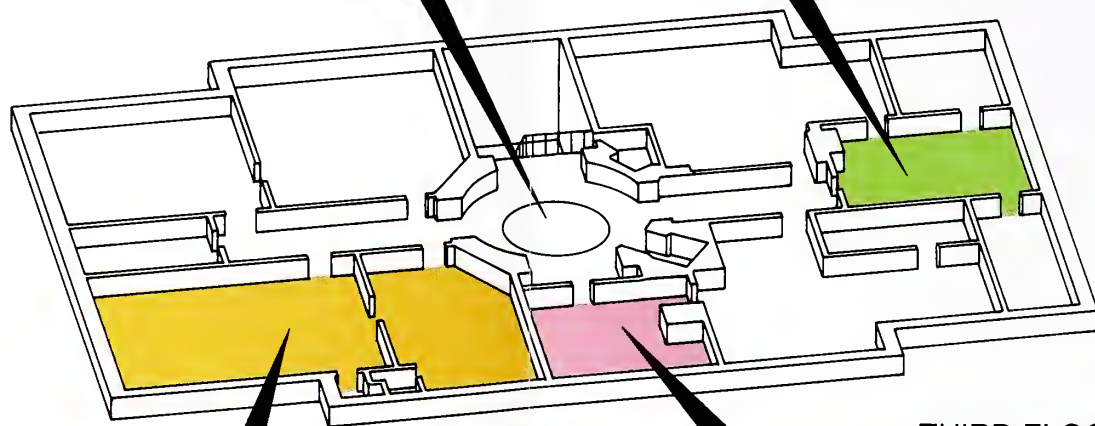
and Christmas Day. Admission is \$2.00/adults, \$1.00/children(3-12). Prearranged student group rates are available upon request. Groups of 10 or more are asked to make advanced reservations to visit the facility. The facility is handicap accessible. Please call 309-827-0428 if you require special assistance.



The rotunda is capped with an allegorical mural depicting peace and prosperity, a representation of the spirit of turn-of-the-century McLean County.



Quilting is demonstrated on Thursdays. This dedicated group of volunteer quilters enjoys sharing their craft. Stop by for a chat.



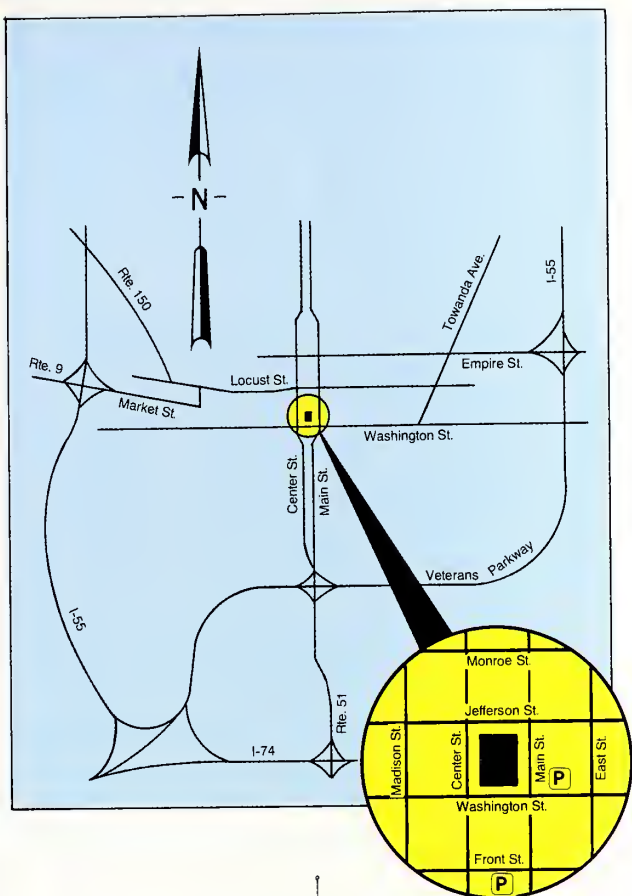
THIRD FLOOR



The McLean County Historical Society also offers *The Bender and Merwin Galleries* which houses temporary exhibits, highlighting the collections of the Society, and displaying artifacts not permanently on view to the public. Traveling exhibits from other museums are also featured. Special events which complement the permanent and changing exhibits are scheduled at the Historical Society throughout the year. The schedules for these exhibits and events vary.



Visitors are encouraged to experience the *Harriet Rust Pioneer Neighborhood*, a recreated log cabin. In this "hands-on" area, you are encouraged to participate in activities from the past. Push a steel plow, beat an area rug, scrub your clothes (after fetching the water), and practice your arithmetic on a slate. Compare your life to the lives of early McLean County residents.



McLEAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Old Courthouse

200 N. Main Street, Bloomington, IL 61701

Phone 309-827-0428

Open Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri., and Sat., 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tues. from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Closed Sundays, New Year's, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas

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